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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19644 TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1997 SWAN 7-577 4 SAER 18 NIS 50 (EILNIS 80)

Knesset threatens Generali boycott

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Cross-dressing in 'A Marked Ball'

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Jazz bounce back

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Israeli witnesses recount Naharayim murders

News agencies

MARI AL-HAMAM, Jordan - Maya Shmuel, who was seriously injured when a Jordanian soldier went on a shooting spree last March, killing seven of her schoolmates, yesterday described her ordeal to a military court.

"We got off the bus and stood close to the guide, who began to explain ... and talked for nearly a minute, until we heard the shots," Shmuel, 14, told the court in a soft voice.

She and five other witnesses were brought under heavy security to testify in the trial of Pvt. Ahmed Daqamsa, who shot the girls at Naharayim on March 13.

After their testimony, they were hosted at a meal by King Hussein.

Shmuel, speaking only a few meters from where a composed Daqamsa was sitting in a chair behind the black bars of his cage, said a bullet which he fired hit her in the stomach.

Another group of schoolgirls who went on the school trip will testify at the next hearing on Sunday.

Daqamsa has not denied shooting the girls, but says he acted impulsively after being provoked during Moslem prayers. He faces a death sentence if found guilty on four charges, including premeditated murder.

Testimony by Dr. Yehuda Hiss, a pathologist at the National Forensic Institute at Abu Kabir, contradicted Daqamsa's claims.

Hiss told the court that six of the girls died of gunshot wounds to the back and one because of "a deadly injury in the left shoulder." The shots were fired from a distance of about 2 meters, said Hiss, who examined the bodies when they were flown back to Israel after the shooting.

Ze'ev Kramer, 45, the tour guide, recalled how he at first thought Daqamsa, who was preparing his M-16 rifle to shoot, was only removing an ammunition clip, until it dawned on him that he "was shooting at us."

"At first, when I saw him handling his ammunition clip, I thought he wanted to remove it. I wanted to continue talking to the girls but then, after four or five seconds, I heard a volley of automatic fire," said Kramer.

The court also heard the testimony of Yafa Shukron, 40, a Hebrew teacher who was shot in the left arm.

"When we rushed to hide under the slope, a girl screamed, saying she was in great pain, and as she got closer I saw her head down, at the same time my left shoulder was hit by a bullet and I lost consciousness," she said.

Judge Brigadier Mamoun Khasawneh turned down a request by defense lawyer Hussein Majjali to bar the Israeli witnesses on the grounds that Jews would not tell the truth because they are the "eternal enemies" of Arabs.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu pours concrete yesterday during a cornerstone-laying ceremony for a new architecture school at Ariel's College of Judea and Samaria. In his address Netanyahu made no mention of any plans to halt the construction of 6,500 homes for Jews at Har Homa in Jerusalem. (AP)

PM: Building on Har Homa, in settlements will continue

By SARAH HONG

"Construction in Jerusalem, including on Har Homa, as well as construction in the settlements of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza continues and will continue," Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told Likud-Gesher-Tsomet MKs last night.

He again categorically rejected reports that any sort of a promise has been made to halt construction at Har Homa or in the settlements.

"We are now in the midst of a negotiating process in which we first must make sure that the Palestinian side lives up to its commitments to combat terror and to cease murdering land dealers and other innocent people," he said.

The negotiating session in Cairo, he said, "did not result in any under-

standings about renewing the process, but we are meeting again on Thursday. For my part, I still would like to see the Palestinian side live up to its bargain and then I would like to enter a speeded up negotiation for the final status agreement."

His guidelines for that agreement, Netanyahu said, will "take into account the reality and conditions already created on ground, but we will strive to maintain in Israeli hands the most vital national assets that would enable us to achieve peace with security and peace without giving up what is dearest to this nation. Heading the list is Jerusalem and sites which are cardinal to our existence as a nation and as a Jewish state."

Among the guidelines for a final status deal, Netanyahu listed "forti-

fy the Jordan River as our eastern boundary and enhancing Israel's direct control over the Jordan Valley and the mountain ranges which control it. This is most important.

"It should be self-evident that we should have absolute responsibility and exclusive sovereignty in greater Jerusalem. I don't see Jewish settlements existing in isolation, but as blocs. There are security zones and border areas which we must keep in our hands.

"This is not the full list of our conditions and demands. But the basic difference between us and others is that we oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state in the areas of the Palestinian Authority, because such a state means an Arab army which would threaten Israel's very existence."

Flight dispute with US resolved

By HILLEL KUTTLER and AP

WASHINGTON - Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy has decided to allow Tower Air to fly from New York to Tel Aviv via Athens, thereby averting an aviation skirmish that threatened El Al's American subsidiary.

The last-minute decision apparently avoids US Department of Transportation sanctions that would have grounded North American Airlines connections carrying El Al passengers from New York to Baltimore/Washington, Dallas, and Orlando.

The announcement came in a statement Levy's office issued last night in which he decided to

"respond positively" to Tower's request.

"This follows talks conducted in recent days between Minister Levy and the US Embassy in Israel, with a desire to pave the way to continued negotiations on flight arrangements between Israel and the US," the statement said, adding that Israel's Civil Aviation Authority would raise with the DOT Israel's request to add San Francisco to its list of destinations.

DOT officials could not be reached yesterday for confirmation.

An Israeli Embassy official here said the negotiations were handled almost entirely in Israel, often through Ambassador Martin Indyk. The official said, "I don't think it was smart of [Israel] to refuse Athens' service for Tower.

The US's grounding of North American Airlines was to have begun tomorrow. The company flies the New York-Baltimore/Washington

route Wednesdays, although not this week due to Shavuot. It is to begin summer service to Orlando next week and has not yet decided when service to Dallas will commence. El Al's US director Mickey Gat said.

Last week, Israel's Civil Aviation Authority turned down Tower Air's request to launch a Tel Aviv-Athens-New York route during the summer tourist season, reportedly citing a late application. US transportation officials in turn barred El Al from expanding its stops to Orlando, Dallas, and Baltimore/Washington.

Happy holiday

The management and staff of The Jerusalem Post wish all our readers a Happy Shavuot. The next edition of the paper will appear on Thursday, June 12.

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MKs to be probed in Ben-Ari case

Channel 2: Leading figures from Likud, Labor, and Yisrael Ba'aliya face investigation

By RAINE MARCUS and agencies

The police plan to interrogate several cabinet ministers and MKs on suspicion that they were connected to reputed Russian mafia boss Zvi Ben-Ari (formerly known as Gregory Lerner), Channel 2 reported yesterday.

Channel 2 TV said eight leading figures from the Likud, Labor Party, and Yisrael Ba'aliya would be questioned — some under caution, meaning they are criminal suspects.

Police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin would not confirm the report, saying only that "the police will call any public figure for investigation, if it is necessary."

Ben-Ari, meanwhile, was remanded for an additional 13 days by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday, after a special authorization by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, as he has already been in jail for 30 days.

He was arrested on May 12 on suspicion that he defrauded Russian banks of

\$85 million and was involved in the murders of two prominent critics of the Russian mafia. Police said he was detained, along with five aides, at Ben-Gurion Airport while allegedly trying to flee the country.

The TV report said the suspicions against Lerner have widened and police now suspect he tried to "take over" one of the three political parties to win greater legitimacy.

Ben-Ari is still refusing to cooperate with police, and even refused to sit in a

room with a district attorney who arrived from Russia to question him about crimes there. Sources said that while officially the Russian authorities are cooperating with their Israeli counterparts, the Russian police are too frightened to help.

Ben-Ari is known for leading a flamboyant lifestyle in Ashkelon. According to media, he owned several large villas, crisscrossed the country in Mercedes limousines and was always surrounded by bodyguards.



Let us out

Two Palestinian youths make the victory sign from a makeshift cage at a Gaza protest yesterday calling for Israel and the Palestinian Authority to free political prisoners. (Reuters)

'Racist' officer petitions dismissal

By BATSHEVA TSUR

An IDF officer who was dismissed from the ranks for casting racial aspersions on one of his soldiers, yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to rescind the dismissal order.

Speaking on behalf of Maj. Michael Walitskin, his lawyer said that he was "a victim" and that media reports about the incident "were only half-truths."

The IDF refused to renew Walitskin's contract and said he would have to leave the military in the coming months after he insulted one of his soldiers, an immigrant from Ethiopia, who had requested medical aid. During the incident, which took place in March, Walitskin told the soldier that the doctor should post a sign saying, "No blacks allowed."

But the lawyer said yesterday that Walitskin had a record of being an "outstanding officer, very professional" and that he had specially nurtured the soldier.

NEWS

in brief

Manbar: Authorities knew what I was doing

The prosecution presented a witness who testified from behind a screen to protect his identity yesterday, in the trial of arms merchant Nahum Manbar on charges of selling Iran materials for the production of chemical weapons. As he was brought into Tel Aviv District Court under heavy guard, Manbar called out to reporters: "Everything that has been written is not totally true. Everything [I did] was permitted. All the authorities knew what I was doing. This is a public scandal."

In a separate case involving Manbar, Bank Hapoalim yesterday filed suit in the district court against him and his partner, Ya'acov Optovsky, for defaulting on a NIS 1.7 million loan. *Itim*

Retirement deal reached for mid-level officers

The IDF and Finance Ministry have reached a preliminary agreement to give large compensation bonuses to mid-level officers who opt for early retirement. The agreement, which has not yet been finalized, will aid the IDF in getting rid of what it labels "unnecessary" officers between the ages of 32 and 37. Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef confirmed that talks have taken place and that both the ministry and the defense establishment support the idea. The IDF refused to give details of the agreement, such as the size of the bonus or the number of officers that will be phased out. *Arieh O'Sullivan and David Harris*

Mordechai to visit US and Paris

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to leave for the US and France tomorrow for a week-long working visit during which he will examine weapons systems for the 21st century. After a weekend in Los Angeles, where he will meet with Jewish leaders and politicians, Mordechai is slated to visit the Ft. Hood US military base for a briefing on future warfare. He will then stop in St. Louis to review the \$2 billion F-15I fleet being built at the McDonnell Douglas plant.

From America, Mordechai is scheduled to fly to France to attend the biannual Paris air show. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Extortion suspect remanded for 10 days

Michael Gedri, 53, a restaurateur from Gan Ner who was arrested on Monday on suspicion of trying to extort \$750,000 from the Osem food company by threatening to poison its products with a laxative, was remanded yesterday by Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court for 10 days and sent for psychiatric observation. Police said Gedri's restaurant businesses had collapsed and he had also attempted to extort a similar sum from Strauss dairies. Gedri did not deny the allegations of extortion, but said he had neither the intention nor the means of carrying out his threats. Police told the court that he is a menace to the public and if released on bail may also harm himself. *Raine Marcus*

IDF lawyer wants death by negligence charge

IDF Judge-Advocate General Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham proposed yesterday that military law be amended to allow officers and soldiers to be charged with causing death by negligence, a charge that can now only be made in a civilian court.

Shoham said the reasoning behind the amendment, which must be approved by the Knesset, is to keep cases involving a death during operations within the military. Doing so would remove from the accused the stigma of having a civilian criminal record. He said it would not be applied in cases involving traffic accidents, accidental shootings, and medical malpractice. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

2 officers disciplined for falsifying documents

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan dismissed two officers for falsifying records of a training exercise and instructed the Military Police to open an investigation into the matter. The two officers, one a major and the other a first lieutenant, admitted they had falsified a report on a call-up exercise conducted in May. Both officers served as adjutants and Dayan instructed that their continued service in the IDF be reexamined. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

New satlink for Channel 2

The Second Television and Radio Authority has awarded the Hallal company the contract to provide the satellite uplink for Channel 2 broadcasts via the Amos satellite. Channel 2 chief engineer Ehud Ben-Dor explained that the signals are sent out to the ground transmitting stations via Amos. There is also a fiber-optic link with some of the larger stations, such as the one at Eitanim. Until Sunday, Bezeq provided the service via the Intelsat. *Helen Kaye*

BACKGROUND

No clarity in Falash Mura decision

By HERB KEINON

Sunday's ministerial committee decision to close the Falash Mura transit compound in Addis Ababa and bring all those eligible to Israel may solve the acute problems of the 3,500 residents of the camp, but leaves wide open and unresolved the status of thousands of Falash Mura in other parts of Ethiopia.

"My gut feeling," said Steven Kaplan, a professor of African studies and Ethiopian history at Hebrew University, "is that the minute this [camp issue] is resolved, many more people are going to emerge who will say that they are Falash Mura or Jews" eligible to come to Israel.

After seven years and any number of committees and delegations, Israel has yet to determine whether the Falash Mura should be considered Jews. Sunday's decision does not clarify the matter any further.

The plight of this community burst into the public's consciousness soon after Operation Solomon brought some 14,000 Jews here in 1991. For a few euphoric days it seemed as if Ethiopian Jewry, pretty much in its entirety, was rescued in that airlift.

But then reports began to emerge of Jews in a distant region of Ethiopia who missed the planes, as well as of Jews — Falash Mura — who had converted to Christianity and now wanted to come to Israel.

Three thousand Falash Mura were not allowed on the Israeli planes during Operation Solomon, and remained in a compound in Addis Ababa administered by the Joint Distribution Committee and the North American Conference

on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ). Many have lived there since 1991, while others have drifted there from other regions.

Estimates of the number of Falash Mura in the rest of the country range from as few as 10,000 to as many as 250,000, with the commonly accepted number put at some 25,000. Sunday's decision solves the problem of the 3,600 in Addis Ababa, by saying they can immigrate either under the Law of Return or Law of Entry, but does not begin to deal with the rest.

"Those who wanted to bring all the Falash Mura here said in the beginning that there were 25,000 to 28,000, but now these people are saying the numbers are much less," said Kaplan. "Initially no distinction was made between those in the compound in Addis Ababa and those elsewhere; now the larger community has been dropped, and the emphasis is on those in the compound."

Views concerning the Falash Mura vary widely. Some, including a number of rabbis, politicians, and activists in the community, view them as similar to Marranos — Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity during the Inquisition in order to survive. Others, also including some rabbis, politicians, and activists in the community, look at them disparagingly as Jews who left the fold as a matter of convenience, and for whom Israel has no moral responsibility.

Various rabbinical and governmental committees have been dispatched to Ethiopia in the hope that they would define the issues, but no final decision has been made.

In 1993 a committee of the Chief Rabbinate said the Falash

Mura in Addis Ababa should be brought to Israel under the Law of Return as Jews, but did not extend that to the greater Falash Mura community.

The Interministerial Committee on the Falash Mura under then Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban recommended that same year that the government permit family reunifications on a humanitarian and individual basis under the Law of Entry, and not allow them in as Jews under the Law of Return. "We did not take a wholesale decision to let everyone in," Tsaban said yesterday, "but rather some under the Law of Return and others under the Law of Entry for humanitarian reasons." The latest decision, he said, seems to be a more "wholesale decision" to bring those in the Addis Ababa camp to Israel.

What will happen to the other Falash Mura, however, still remains anyone's guess.



Falash Mura wait in the refugee compound in Addis Ababa, in a file photo from May 1996. (Karen Benzion)

Court recommends Dayan testify

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday instructed the attorney-general and the Judge Advocate-General to consider whether OC Central Command Uzi Dayan should give evidence in court with regard to a petition from officers in an IDF undercover unit. The four petitioned the court a month ago in the hope of cancelling an indictment against them on charges of negligent homicide.

The charges relate to an October 1994 incident in which an Israeli citizen, Arye Houry, was shot near Hebron. The incident took place when the unit was attempting to capture suspects travelling on back roads at night in cars with Israeli license plates. The force opened fire at the vehicle after it failed to stop at a roadblock and

the driver lost control and later died of his injuries.

The petitioners, represented by the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, asked the court yesterday to add a long list of respondents, most of them senior IDF officers who supported their claim that the incident had taken place during an operation.

"It is becoming the mode to bring testimony from senior army officers in complicated cases of negligence," said prosecutor Shai Nitzan, who opposes this.

Earlier, Justice Mishael Cheshin had taken the prosecution to task, saying that the attorney-general should have delved more thoroughly into the case and considered overturning the decision of the Judge Advocate-General, who opposed cancelling the indictment.

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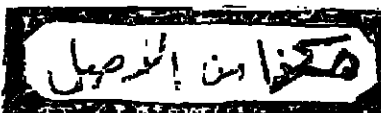
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AMICUS CURIA ON THE KNESSET BILL (5757) CONCERNING THE VALIDITY OF CONVERSIONS BY CLERICS OF THE CONSERVATIVE, REFORM, RECONSTRUCTIONIST ANTI JUDAIC RELIGIONS

Prepared by: The Bet Din Elyon of America for the Supreme Court of Israel

The Torah was given on one mountain by one God to one people not four Torah's on four mountains to four peoples. God, as our scriptural text sources clearly indicate abhors pluralism: "There shall be one law for the citizen and for the stranger who dwells among you" (Ex.12:49). "There shall be one law and one ordinance for you and the stranger who dwells among you" (Num.15:16). "How long will you continue to be pluralistic?" (Kings I, 18:21); "Don't meddle with pluralism" (Proverbs 24:21).

For many years there has been a disinformational campaign waged that the anti-Semitic, egalitarian Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform (CR) are branches of Judaism, relegating authentic Jews and their Judaism to a mere minority branch of ethnic, primitive, medieval, anti progressive, psychotic, fascist rabble called Orthodox. Rabbi Leo Jung in 1937 stated: "The term 'Orthodox' was first applied to the Jews by Abraham Furtado (1756-1816) in connection with the Sabbateerism conferred by Napoleon. Shortly after, the birth of Reform Judaism emphasized the use of the term 'orthodox' applied first to Judaism as found in the Bible, Talmud, Codes and Responsa; secondly to Jews who accept its authority and who endeavor to obey its precepts. The designation 'orthodox', moreover obscures the fact that what is so called, is in reality Judaism proper" (UOJCA, Conversion).

Accordingly, the Reform Movement, as delineated by Scholem and his academic colleagues was a two-faced. Externally, "kissel hats" it advocated a Jewish escape from Judaism claiming under the pretense of academic scholarship that the Torah was given to God written by humans and therefore not binding. Internally, it advocated a Jewish escape from Judaism claiming under the pretense of academic scholarship that the Torah was given to God written by humans and therefore not binding.

Our public campaign to Gentiles concerning the Noachide Laws is rooted in Maimonides (Rambam) statement based on Pirkei D'R Eliezer that we have no missionaries to convert Gentiles to Judaism. However, we are commanded to: "Coerce all the inhabitants of the Earth to accept the Noachide Laws." (Hil. M'achin 8:10) The Rambam's citation for homosexuality being a Noachide capital crime is Hil. M'achin (9:5-6).

Our Bet Din publicized a "Declaration on Homosexual Abominations and Lesbianism" (Jerusalem Post May 27, 1994) wherein we declared in summary the following: Homosexuality is a cardinal crime in Judaism. Our sages ruled long ago, that if a person is asked privately under threat of death to engage in homosexual relations with any man, death is preferable (Sanhedrin 76a, Yad, Hil. Yerosdei HaTorah Chapter 5). This holds for idolatry, murder and any of the capital sexual crimes such as adultery and incest. However, in private one is prohibited to sacrifice one's life for procreantial nitwit, or eating non-kosher foods or violating Shabbat a capital offense. Applying the equality of cardinal crimes across the board our Bet Din ruled:

"If any man leech with mankind as he leech with a woman, both of them have committed abomination, they both shall surely be put to death." (The Liberties of the Massachusetts Colony in New England, 1641) Indeed, the Hittite Code of this country and that of Hammurabi all inveighed against homosexuality.

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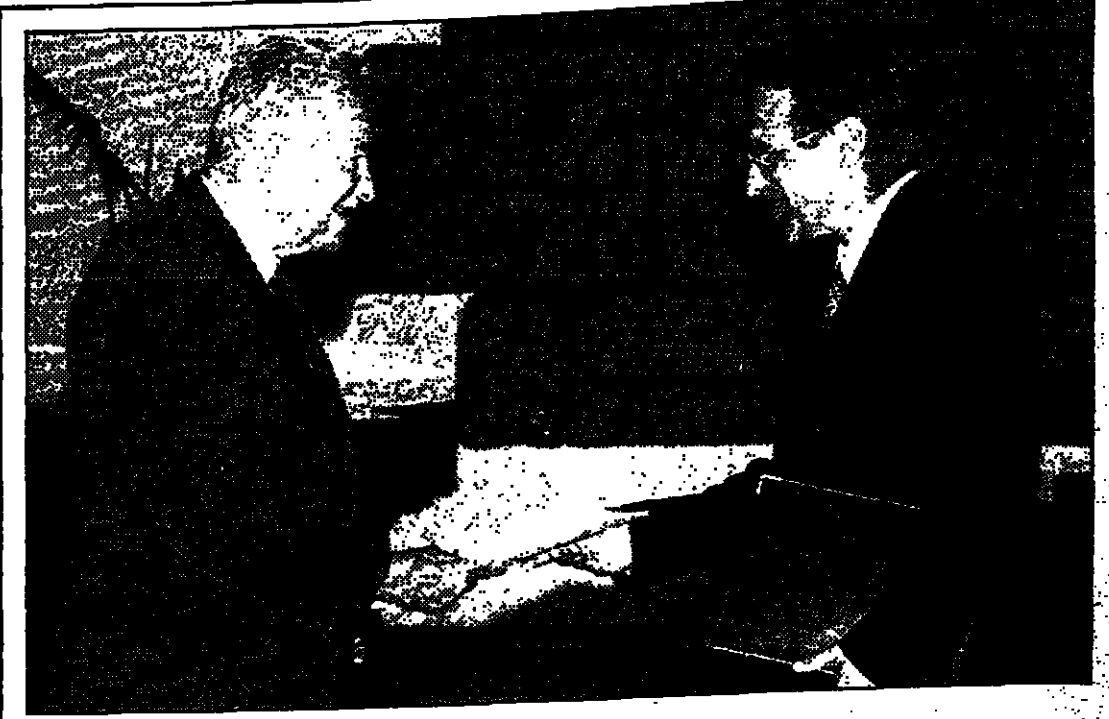
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New Russian envoy Mikhail Bogdanov (right), the new Russian ambassador, presents his credentials to President Ezer Weizman yesterday at Beit Hanassi. Bogdanov, 45, a 23-year veteran of the foreign service, has previously served in Yemen, Lebanon, and Syria, and as Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for the Middle East and North Africa.

MKs begin legislation process against Generali

By DAVID HARRIS

If insurance company Assicurazioni Generali does not commit itself to pay out on policies of Holocaust victims within the next two weeks, legislation will be introduced to prevent government and public bodies insuring with its Israeli subsidiary, Migdal Insurance. This was decided during a joint meeting yesterday of the Knesset Insurance and Jewish Property subcommittees.

Ansbacher, who is representing the families here. In some 20 percent of these instances documentation exists. The total payable on these policies amounts to an estimated \$10m., said Ansbacher, who maintains there are many similar cases abroad. "The company has become entrenched in its views while others have opened their lines and are prepared to compensate the Jewish people," said Insurance subcommittee chairman Michael Kleiner (Gesher). Knesset speaker Dan Tichon pointed out that companies such as UBS, which has no assets in Israel, are addressing the issue, under pressure from world Jewry. Migdal consistently has refused to agree to pay families of Holocaust victims, whether they hold the relevant documentation or not. The company so far has failed to hold itself to any of its written or verbal commitments, according to Insurance Supervisor Doron Shorer and Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism).

Generali and the Jews

At the end of the 19th century and into the 1900s, representatives of the Italian-based Assicurazioni Generali, along with those of other insurance companies, traveled extensively in Eastern Europe in an attempt to increase business. Many Jews, thought to number thousands, decided to take out a variety of policies with Generali, which had all the hallmarks of a stable Western European company. Contracts were drawn up in villages and towns across Eastern Europe for life insurance and wedding endowment policies. It is thought by some of those dealing with Holocaust victims' policies, that some 80 percent to 90% of all life insurance in Eastern Europe was taken out with Generali, the vast majority by Jews. Immediately after the war, many of the families of Holocaust victims approached the company, but in some cases were told that without death certificates they were not entitled to claim on the policies. In late 1945, many of the company's Eastern European assets and liabilities were nationalized. The company maintains that in many instances the current European governments that took over from the communist regimes are the correct address for claims. The matter became particularly sensitive last year, when Generali, always a significant shareholder in Migdal Insurance, agreed to purchase the company from Bank Leumi.

Polish subsidiary insured Auschwitz billets

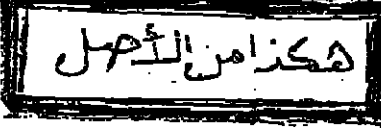
By DAVID HARRIS

A Polish subsidiary of the new owners of Migdal Insurance, Assicurazioni Generali, was one of the insurers of the billets at Auschwitz, according to Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera. The newspaper's Berlin reporter claims to have found papers in the Bundesarchiv in Berlin and Koblenz which show that Generali Port Polonia held a 16 percent stake in the policy that was covered by several companies including Bayerische Vericherungsbank.

This policy, signed on October 26, 1942, insured "the billets in which people live and work in the larger 'Cacrow' for 3 million zlotys. On February 26 the following year, new billets were also insured, for an additional 6 million zlotys. The newspaper claims there are several other similar policies. "We know nothing of this kind," wrote Generali in its archives there is nothing concerning these contracts.

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Sting in the tail

MARK L. LEVINSON

Indeed, as the newer immigrants tell us older ones from time to time, we tend to complain about Israeli failings that aren't Israeli at all, but rather general human failings.

For example, there's our impatience with the burden of identity, the impatience that leads our children into Zen and the art of skate-board decoration, and makes our professors write as if the war of 1948 was somehow the Arabs' retaliation for the war of 1967.

That kind of alienation is not just Israeli. It does not require the combined historical weight of the Exodus, the Talmud, and the Palmach.

On the contrary, modern young people all over the Western world have a hard time internalizing their given identity.

Finding herself in danger of being publicized as an attractive young woman when she wanted to be known as a serious musical artist, Sinead O'Connor rejected the unwanted identity by shaving her head.

More power to their neuroses, I say, if their creativity benefits.

But Sting and O'Connor are arriving here this month to make a political statement, and politics is another matter.

Everyone's right to an opinion is axiomatic. Even a kooky opinion. O'Connor, for example, is quoted as believing that Jesus was crucified for leading an armed rebellion against the Romans. The Bible has always been fair game for kooks.

I even know a fellow who believes that the King James version, not the Hebrew or Greek one, is the authentic word of God.

But it's disingenuous to pre-

sume that a performer's opinions don't carry extra weight. One need only think of the youngsters drawn to political rallies by popular singers, and often pictured as if they're loudly endorsing the political statements when, in fact, they're applauding guitar licks.

Eventually, in their intellectual undernourishment quest for identity, they come to believe that they do have political stands, and to believe that is to have them.

So Sting and O'Connor will sing in support of "two capitals for two states" in Jerusalem.

They are famous enough to draw great attention, an Israeli/Palestinian "sharing Jerusalem" group was clever enough to invite them, and someone was stupid enough to promise them use of the Sultan's Pool as a platform to call for the dismemberment of the very municipality that fixed it up so nicely.

WHO is my gripe with? My gripe is with Holland and France, with Belgium and Sweden and Spain. I'll explain.

I expect the artists to behave fatuously. I expect the political activists to exploit that fatuity.

But the Danish Embassy and the French, Belgian, Swedish, and Spanish consulates are helping to fund this program at the Sultan's Pool "to promote a joint Israeli-Palestinian project calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," as *The Jerusalem Post* reported on Friday.

Unlike artists and activists, diplomats are supposed to behave diplomatically.

No diplomat accredited to France or Spain would openly bestow funding on Basque separatists. No foreign consul or ambassador would promote the idea of splitting Brussels into separate capitals for a Flemish state and a state of the Walloons.

And all Israelis, even those who yearn for a compromise in the capital, should have enough sense of identity to distinguish between our proper role in this business and the role of foreigners.

Our leaders should make it clear that the diplomats are expected to save their annual budgets for programs that grind no political axes.

And as for the singers, I hope they will always be welcome as artists; but Sting himself has best expressed the uncomfortable feeling this visit brings.

Please, Mr. Sting, don't stand so close to me.

I expect artists to behave fatuously. But some diplomats need to clean up their act

The writer is a Herzliya-based freelance.



Old maps just won't do

DAVID NEWMAN

Yigal Allon is back in the news. The latest cartographic proposal for solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, not yet seen by the public, has been compared to the plan drawn up by the former politician-soldier in the immediate aftermath of the Six Day War.

settlements throughout the West Bank over the past 20 years meant that the Allon concept had effectively ceased to exist from the mid-1970s on.

Gush Emunim succeeded in founding Jewish communities throughout the areas Allon designated for the Palestinian autonomy area and which, according to his plan, were to have been left

The existence of 140,000 Jewish settlers is precisely the reality Allon wanted to prevent

unsettled by Israel.

The Gush Emunim dormitory communities proved very successful in attracting a new generation of urbanites. Politically and religiously motivated to settle the West Bank, these people weren't interested in joining the cooperative and collective agricultural communities of a bygone era located in the hot, dry, remote Jordan Valley.

Essentially, geography proved the major obstacle to the Allon Plan's implementation; equally geography ensured the rapid growth of the Gush Emunim "suburbs."

The agricultural communities envisioned in the Allon Plan remained sparsely settled. They never exceeded 3,000 residents at their peak in the late '70s.

In the early 1980s, the Likud government promoted its own version of suburban colonization in what was known as the "Hundred Thousand Plan." Aimed at increasing the Jewish settler population of the West Bank to

100,000 within a few years, the region was opened up to a variety of suburban attractions.

Cheap land plots, good schooling, tax benefits - and all of it only "five minutes from Kfar Sava" - proved the economic carrot that lured a large influx of settlers during this period.

THE existence of this large settlement network has proved the single overwhelming constraint for Israeli negotiators preparing maps for the final status negotiations. Any Israeli proposal that takes account of this network will, of necessity, produce a map made up of disconnected pieces of territory, continuing to display the cheeseboard impression of the Oslo 2 map.

This was precisely the scenario Allon wanted to avoid.

A member of the Ahdut Avoda movement, Allon didn't treat settlements lightly. Just as they had been responsible in part for determining borders in 1948, so too did he see them as determining the state's future boundaries. One thing Allon did not want was to create settlement "facts" in areas which would limit Israel's maneuverability in future negotiations.

Any proposal made today must deal with the human geography of today's West Bank, including some 140,000 Jewish residents in areas Allon did not want settled. It cannot, misleadingly, call up old plans dealing with totally different realities.

It is time Netanyahu stopped hiding behind maps drawn up by past Labor leaders and came up with a realistic proposal of his own.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute of Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

Can a cat guard the cream?

YOSEF GOELL

Shavuot is a good time to remember that the business of law-giving, by which an inchoate melange of individuals and tribes is turned into a nation, is a protracted, messy process.

Twice Moses had to try to impose the Ten Commandments on a recalcitrant people; and the main job of codifying the laws by which the people of Israel would conduct their daily affairs still lay ahead.

As we lurch toward marginally better government, what is there to say for the proposal, made at the recent cabinet session, that the commission to be set up to appraise all candidates for major governmental posts include a majority of three cabinet ministers? The answer is very little: more (or less) than that, it is a step backwards.

That the prime minister was forced to commit himself to establishing a vetting body of this kind was the only "step forward" in the entire shameful Bar-On Affair.

Netanyahu had to take it because the same attorney-general's report that exonerated him of criminal charges in connection with his botched attempt to appoint Roni Bar-On also found him woefully remiss both in his choice of candidate and in the way he railroaded that choice through a supine cabinet.

Yisrael Ba'Aliya's Natan Sharansky and Avigdor Kahatani of the Third Way, who held Netanyahu's political fate in their hands at the denouement of the affair, insisted that future appointments be vetted by a public commission before submission to the cabinet for final approval. Sharansky, Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer were named to work out proposals.

Their original idea was to have a body consisting of the attorney-

general, the Civil Service Commissioner and a retired judge. Then, somewhere along the way, the prime minister insisted that three cabinet ministers be included, which is what Sharansky finally proposed.

When the proposal was brought before the last cabinet meeting, some ministers demurred, claiming that those three ministers would, in effect, be awarded veto power over appointments in their own domain.

It should be noted that the posts

Giving ministers veto power over appointments in their own domain is hardly proper practice

in question include the army's chief of staff, the heads of the Mossad and of the General Security Service, the police inspector-general and the governor of the Bank of Israel.

IF the Bar-On Affair did one thing, it was to confirm the suspicion that the prime minister cannot be trusted when it comes to major appointments.

The need for an impartial, high-level body to vet all proposed appointments is more urgent than ever bearing in mind the recent growth in the influence of money, and possibly criminal elements on the political process.

Putting ministers on such a vetting commission would be the political equivalent of appointing the cat to guard the cream.

Theoretically, one might contemplate copying the system in

the US. There the Senate must approve all high-level appointments, all ambassadors, federal judges and a host of other posts.

But there are at least two arguments against this. One is that it would mean going to the opposite extreme to what we have known up till now. Prospective candidates would have to submit themselves to untrammelled and demeaning scrutiny of their private lives by a body of cynical politicians and a particularly carnivorous media.

The result in the US in recent years has been that many of the most capable candidates for public office have simply refused to stand, not being prepared to submit to a brutal baring of their private lives.

The second argument against is the extreme factionalism of our Knesset, and the questionable level of integrity of most of our MKs.

The original proposal thus remains the best: a nonpolitical commission composed of public figures.

In any case, both original nominations for posts and the final approval would still be in the hands of the ministers and the cabinet respectively, where they belong.

Last April, Sharansky lacked the guts to bring Netanyahu down over his nefarious role in the Bar-On Affair. A chastized PM, he argued, would go along with a new method of choosing superior candidates for high public office.

The public must demand that Sharansky and Meridor now show some courage and independence, and stand up to the prime minister in supporting a totally nonpolitical vetting commission.

The writer comments on public affairs.

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Whither we goest

Tomorrow the story of the most famous and poetic conversion to Judaism will be read in synagogues throughout the world. "Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people will be my people and thy God my God." Ruth said to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and with that she became a Jew. One wonders whether Ruth, who according to tradition lived long enough to see her descendants David and Solomon become kings, would have been able to convert to Judaism in today's Israel.

Time is running out on the Supreme Court's June 30 deadline for the government's response on the conversion issue. Next week, the Knesset Law Committee is to prepare the legislation for its second reading, and proposals for a compromise that will head off the legislation are flying fast and furious.

The compromise proposals, understandably, all attempt to sidestep the thorniest issue of "Who is a Jew?" and focus instead on the practical ways to finess the problem. Since almost anyone who converts in Israel is already a citizen - by marriage to, or as an adopted child of, Jews - the main issue at stake is the line stating "Nationality: Jew" on the identity cards of most Israelis.

The religious parties object to having an official government document state that someone who went through a non-Orthodox conversion is a Jew. A number of compromises have been proposed that would remove the line altogether, or replace it with a letter or symbol other than the word "Jew." The latter solution would allow each side to interpret the symbol in its own way, without forcing either to state something it believes is untrue.

All of these proposals are in fact "second generation" compromises, in that they deal with the details surrounding the grand compromise that has been in place since the founding of the state. The so-called "status quo" regarding conversions is that non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad are recognized, while the same conversions performed in Israel are not. Like many other imperfect solutions people have learned to live with, it is not long on logic, but somehow reflects a balance between the different realities - in this case between Israel and the largest Diaspora Jewish community, American Jewry.

The current crisis is born of the inability of both sides to resist attempts to nudge the status quo in their direction. For the Reform and Conservative movements, it was not enough for Israel to recognize their conversions for purposes of citizenship and other civil matters - they wanted to break the Orthodox monopoly within

Israel. The religious parties, for their part, have tried over the years to limit acceptance of conversions to Orthodox criteria across the board, and would do so again in a minute if they thought they had the votes.

In fact, the passions stirred up by the current fight belie the relatively small, practical implications of the legislation under consideration. The irony is that, if the version of the law that passed on first reading became law, the result would likely be a boon for non-Orthodox conversions in Israel.

Since the law under consideration would only apply to conversions done in Israel, if the entire conversion process were carried out here - except for the final steps which can be completed on a two-day trip to London - then the conversion would be acceptable under the new law.

The religious parties know that, politically speaking, they cannot toughen the law beyond what is in the coalition agreement, because it would not pass. On the other hand, if it is not tightened, the law will be easily circumvented. As a result of this predicament, the religious parties are beginning to show a willingness to find some compromise. All except one, that is - the National Religious Party.

After months of negotiations between the haredi parties and coalition figures such as MKs Alex Lubotsky, Natan Sharansky, and Michael Eitan, the NRP has, at the last minute, decided to outflank even the haredim. MK Shaul Yahalom, a key NRP member and chairman of the Law Committee, has rejected any solution that would tamper with the nationality clause on the identity card. The reason: "It would play into the hands of those who say the State of Israel is not a Jewish state." Sometimes it is hard to remember that American and Israeli Jews are part of the same people; especially when they act as if they are not on the same planet. While American Jews fight to keep the Ten Commandments from being displayed in public schools, the supposed "mainstream" religious in the NRP are fighting against even the hint of a separation between religion and state.

The depth of the emotions surrounding the conversion law issue reflect both classic power politics and authentic religious passions. What must be recognized by both sides is the overarching need not to allow this issue to divide the Jewish people. Also forgotten in the shuffle are the human needs of thousands of people who, like Ruth, wish to throw in their lot with the Jewish nation. A party that calls itself the National Religious Party should have been leading the efforts to formulate a compromise - the least it can do now is get out of the way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'NO PEACE WITHOUT DEMOCRACY'

Sir - P. David Hornik charges into the ring (June 2) in defense of Prime Minister Netanyahu's assertion that "real progress toward peace would require the democratization of Arab countries."

He goes further, however. According to his argument, we should have said to the Palestinians something like this: "You must become a democracy before we allow you to have any kind of autonomy, let alone self-government. Until then, we shall continue to rule over you."

"We will not acknowledge the 'Palestine Liberation Organization' as your representative, although it is recognized as such by all the Arab countries, by the UN, by more states than those that have diplomatic relations with Israel, and even by the Palestinian organizations that oppose Fatah and its leader.

"We have outlawed the PLO; we do not allow its flag to be flown; we imprison anyone who works for it; we forbid our citizens by law to negotiate with it. Now establish a democratic government!"

This is obvious nonsense. Under such circumstances, peace would not only "take time"; it would be impossible. "No negotiations without Palestinian democracy!" simply meant no negotiations, no peace.

There could be no peace with the Palestinians without agreement with their representatives, such as they were. Now that they have a measure of self-government, it is the responsibility of the Palestinians themselves to work, and fight if need be, for their democratic rights.

MISHA LOUVISH
Jerusalem.

BRITISH CONSISTENCY

Sir - In your article of May 28, reporting the visit of Derek Fatchett, a minister of the new British government, you did not comment upon an important detail. In addition to his rather bland remarks with respect to Har Homa, Mr. Fatchett stated unequivocally that the Har Homa "settlements," is illegal in the view of his government. He said nothing about illegal Palestinian construction, non-extradition of murderers, smuggling of illegal arms into the PA areas, fomenting (if not implementing) terrorist acts and murders, or anything similar. Illegality, like fungibility before it, is apparently exclusively a disease of Israeli actions. Nor did he explain why construction in Jerusalem, which is not forbidden by the Oslo agree-

ment signed personally by Yasser Arafat, is open-and-shut illegal. Fatchett is but the most recent in a long chain of "upwardly mobile" junior UK ministers to make their splash by bad-mouthing Israel (it is no longer socially acceptable to bad-mouth Jews). Britain certainly deserves high marks for consistency. Having done everything possible to prevent the implementation of the Balfour Declaration, let alone the establishment of Israel, and reacting to the Six Day War by placing an arms embargo on Israel (but not, of course, on the Arab countries against which it was defending itself), Britain remains a steadfast Arab ally, still determined to ignore any Israeli claim to this land or any part of it.

STAN GOODMAN
Kiryat Tivon.

OUTRAGEOUS

Sir - What an outrage to suggest a "J" on Israeli Jewish identity cards as a "compromise"! How oblivious are members of the Knesset and Orthodox rabbis of the Holocaust, not to know that the Nazis stamped passports of Jewish

with a "J"? I still have one of those in my possession, never to forget. Whoever thought this up ought to bow his head in shame.

NATHAN P. LEVINSON
Jerusalem (Majorca).

NEW RULES

Sir - The Ministry of Religious Affairs has now changed the criteria for funding Jewish Torah education to all *amutot* (non-profit organizations) and cuts out all groupings which give less than 10,000 hours per month of teaching. This is simply a guise to cut out the non-Orthodox groupings such as the Conservative/Masorti and Reform/Progressive Jewish educational programs.

Once again, Israeli governments, due to the political strengths of the Orthodox parties, are discriminating against their "fellow" Jews, by allowing select portions of the population to hijack Judaism.

The latest changes in the rules of the Ministry of Religious Affairs are a true miscarriage of justice and the antithesis of an open, free, Jewish democratic society.

Are we going to become a fanatic, rigid, fundamentalist and coercive society, where the study of our heritage and texts belongs exclusively to the Orthodox elements of Israeli society, or shall we continue forward and educate all of our people? The time has come for all those who believe in the pluralism of Jewish learning and thought to stop this tragedy before it's too late.

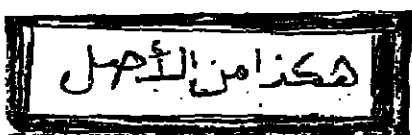
ALLAN WARSHAWSKY,
Vice-President of International Affairs
Masorti/Conservative Movement of Israel

Omer.

CLEANLINESS

Sir - In contrast to a recent letter criticizing the standard of cleanliness in the Helena Rubinstein Pavilion at the Tel Aviv Museum, I would like to state that when I visited it recently, I found the toilets spotless and the manager absolutely a gentleman trying to please everyone. I have visited many museums worldwide and found much to criticize, but not so at the Rubinstein Pavilion.

A. ROSENBERG
Bnei Brak.



IN TUNE

The green, green grass of British rock



Supergrass: Three British youngsters with a sense of humor.

By DAVID BRINN

Supergrass is a band to be reckoned with. Three blokes barely out of their teens who have managed to inhale the whole great British rock tradition and

IN IT FOR THE MONEY
Supergrass (NMC)

WITHOUT YOU
Ayal Golan (Ethnic)

HALF PERCENT BLUES
Avner Strauss (Red Artzt)

spit it back in 12 slices of luscious pop. Like fellow revisionists, Dodgy and Babybird, Supergrass

conjoins up tinted, hazy recollections of the masters, without stealing directly from them.

The record begins, like too many of the current Brits-guitar bands, with the loud and fast sound which was the working mode for their debut *I Should Coco*. But with the first single, "Richard III," and its early Bowie "Suffragette City" swagger and verve, it's clear that something different and interesting is happening.

From there, it's a magical mystery tour featuring generous dollops of Fab Four effects circa 1967. Highlights include the wistful pop of the Crowded House style "Late in the Day" and the retro-psychedelia of "G Song."

The band makes frequent and excellent use of Memphis horn charts, swirling organs, and layered acoustic and electric guitars. Despite the tendency to pack too much into each song, the arrangements are clean and crisp.

The band's sense of humor, which was apparent on its debut, has not fallen by the wayside, with the title track, a takeoff on Frank Zappa's classic, and the closer, "Sometimes I Make You Sad," providing comic relief.

All in all, this is a formidable effort, proving that this band certainly is not in it only for the money.

WITH matinee idol looks and an

accessible Mizrahi-lite style, Ayal Golan will likely be as omnipresent this summer as pop-sicles.

His second album, *Without You*, is already near the top of the local charts and once he makes the television rounds, it will shoot up even higher.

With production and composing help from Ethnix, Golan cruises through sound-alike syncopated beats and also warbly vocals, only shifting gears for a ballad or two.

He seems more interested and dedicated to his looks. In fact, in the liner notes, the musical credits fight for space with the clothes designer and hairdresser. However, expect this to be a

favorite at weddings and water parks all summer long, with or without you.

AVNER Strauss is a blues journeyman who has been on the local scene for years. The title of his new album, *Half Percent Blues*, is fitting since it's not the real blues, but a laid-back mix of jazzy blues and R&B.

It's pleasant but nondescript, with no edge that the best blues provides.

There are a couple of upbeat, downtown funk numbers, and a few of the slow blues get under the skin. But this is a mostly pedestrian stroll when it could have been the ride of a lifetime.

Small hands make light work

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Portuguese pianist Maria Joao Pires is a regular visitor here. But this time around, she is accompanied by a very special guest: her two-year-old adopted son, Claudio. On the one hand there is nothing strange about this, after all many musicians travel worldwide with their offspring. But for a pianist, or, indeed, for anyone who has four daughters (aged 21 to 30) and five grandsons (the oldest of whom is 11) to adopt a child is quite extraordinary to say the least.

On Sunday afternoon, between a morning rehearsal and an evening concert with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Pires told the extraordinary story of the adoption.

"When my oldest daughter gave birth to her third son there was another baby born in the same room. But his mother disappeared immediately after giving birth. After a few days, when I realized he had no family, I spoke with my daughters and we all agreed that I should adopt him. Now I travel with him and it has changed my life. I am very happy," Pires said.

Pires lives in a secluded farm 250 kilometers from Lisbon. "It is a totally wild place in the middle of nowhere. In a place like this you are part of nature and you begin to think in a different way." The farm is almost entirely self-sufficient, growing its own products for daily use and specializing in producing olive oil. Pires built the farm for a very specific reason: to lure young artists and musicians to come and talk about their problems. And the youth of today have numerous problems, she observes.

"Musicians have forgotten why they are making music, teachers have forgotten why they are teaching. The right way of playing music has nothing to do with technique, money and a career. There are many people out there and they are totally lost and the main reason is that probably 95 out of a 100 should not be in this business. They are there only to fulfill their par-

ents' dream and that is wrong. If you do not have your own dream, don't do it.

"Being on stage is the consequence of a life's work and not a goal in itself. Music by itself means nothing, playing Mozart is just like sitting and speaking with you. When we play music, we also have a conversation. Being on stage is hard work and you have to strive in order to achieve it. You must feel secure as a musician but never better than those around you, otherwise you will be on the way to a psychological disaster which will eventually destroy you."

Pires has very small hands, which in a way limit her choice of repertoire. She cannot, for example, play the Brahms, Tchaikovsky or Rachmaninoff piano concerti. But she is not aggravated or bothered by the fact, quite the contrary: "Nothing really bothers me. I learned to play the piano with these hands, I never had different hands so I don't know the feeling. Yes, I would also love to play the Bartok concerti, but instead I play the chamber music of these composers so my repertoire is not totally devoid of their work."

Pires plays Mozart's Ninth Piano Concerto with the IPO this week, a concerto she is very fond of. "I used to do a lot of Mozart in the past but now I do less, now I play more Schubert. In this specific concerto I feel Mozart was not influenced by his time and surrounding."

"I'm not fond of baroque music in general because most of it is not true to itself. Composers must first and foremost represent their time but not be influenced by it. I like to play music which is pure and powerful, music which is true to itself. This concerto is full of drama and different colors, yet I find it really difficult to explain in words, words are so poor compared to the music."

Maria Joao Pires plays with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra tomorrow, Saturday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and Thursday at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

Bullock gets bullish

Sandra Bullock makes big money as a movie star. Still, she's second-guessing herself over the last couple of movies she made, both box-office bombs blistered by critics. "I look back on certain choices that I made, and I wonder if I did it out of the working actor's desperation to just take anything that comes along. I allowed myself, several times, to be mediocre," Bullock said about the comedy *Two if by Sea* and the World War I drama *In Love and War*.

"It's halfway out of trying to be pleasing to everybody. You find mediocrity that way," she says in the July *Rolling Stone* magazine. "I'm not going to allow myself to be mediocre or anything that I am involved with to be mediocre." So the 31-year-old actress fired her top advisers. In the US she is currently being seen in the action sequel *Speed 2*, for which she's making a reported \$12.5 million. And she will make an estimated \$11m. for her next film, *Hope Floats*. (AP)

OPERA REVIEW

Masked masterpiece

By URY EPPSTEIN

This production hosted by the New Israeli Opera proved that even a work not ranking among Verdi's masterpieces can be enjoyable if the direction is in reasonably good taste and the

'A MASKED BALL'

By Verdi
Deutsche Oper Berlin

singing is pleasant. Gottfried Pilz's sets were discreetly suggestive, steering clear of realism and overburdened Romanticism, and avoided over-dramatization, except for the embarrassingly melodramatic death scene that refused to leave much to the imagination.

By HELEN KAYE

Karmiel, the country's biggest dance festival, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, and some 250,000 people are expected to attend its three days of practically nonstop dance from July 8 to 10.

This year's theme, 100 years of Zionism, "presents a challenge to choreographers, and we are always seeking to improve, not resting on our laurels," says Karmiel Festival founding artistic director Yonatan Carmon.

As usual, each night has a headline performance. The opening theme event, *If You Will It, It Is No Dream*, is the last hundred years of Jewish history in dance, from the Russian pogroms at the end of the 19th century to the first immigrants, the struggle for independence and right through to the millennium. The dance features some 1,000 youngsters from here and abroad, including four Jewish dance groups from South America.

The second evening showcases the National Ballet of Korea, a classical ballet company which will present excerpts from *Swan Lake*, *Le Corsair* and *Carmine Burana* among others.

The final evening is a salute to the festival and features the 10 best folk-dance choreographies created during the last 10 years, which will be performed by about 1,000 dancers from the best of Israel's folk-dance companies, with visiting companies from abroad adding their bit. Karmiel wouldn't be Karmiel without the traditional new work by Carmon that always plays at around 1:30 every morning. This year, he has created a piece around the ancient town of Safed and its mystical traditions



Cross-dressing: Gwendolyn Bradley is a delightful Oscar.

Among the singers, the outstanding achievement was Larissa Diadkova's impersonation of Ulrica, representing the eerie shamanist supernatural forces superbly with her sonorous, dark-timbered mezzo-soprano. As Amelia, Michele Crider's rich nuances, emotional expressiveness, bright and intense soprano was moving, in spite of an occasional unsteadiness in her voice. Her preference of Alberto Cupido's radiant, passionate, forceful tenor, as lover King Gustav, over Roberto Servile's somewhat pale and indifferent baritone, as husband Renato, was understandable. The light, elastic coloraturas of Gwendolyn Bradley's crystal-clear soprano, in the male role of Oscar, were a pure delight.

The Deutsche Oper Berlin Chorus and the vocal ensembles were veritable heroes in their own right. The opera's orchestra, conducted by Rafael Frihbeck de Burgos, sounded well-balanced, incisive and admirably accurate.

Zionism in dance



The National Ballet of Korea stars in the Karmiel festival's second night.

called *Tikkun Hatzer* ("Midnight Prayer").

What makes Karmiel special is its blend of dance languages. As well as the Korean ballet, there is the Israeli Ballet, Hong Kong's City Contemporary Dance Company (which has a promise of non-interference for 50 years from the Chinese government when the territory changes hands on July 1), the multiracial Pact Dance Company from South Africa, the Expressions dance company from Australia, given to throwing each other around, as well as ethnic groups from Chile, Georgia, Croatia, India and more.

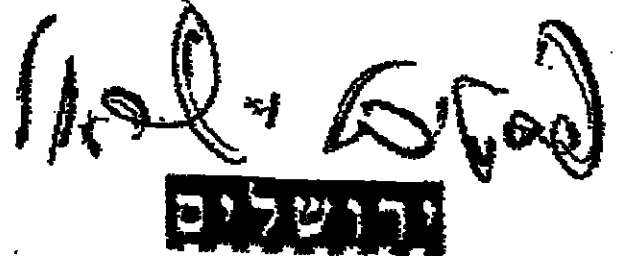
As well as Carmon's piece, the Israel Ballet's Berta Yampolsky has created a dance for the festival, as has Rami Be'er of the Kibbutz Dance Company; three world premieres. Last but not least, there'll be dancing for everybody, nonstop folk-dancing, klezmer, ballroom all over the city.

The first night is devoted to the Mediterranean, the second to wine and flowers and the third to this country's first dances.

The festival is budgeted at NIS 1.4 million and tickets are a steal at NIS 15 to NIS 50. Hora, anyone?

ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEWS

A captivating choir from St. Petersburg



The St. Petersburg Chamber Choir gave a purifying and faultless rendition of the Rachmaninoff Vespers. Nikolai Korniev's choir is a captivating vocal ensemble which mesmerized the audience with its sublime performance of a difficult work. I hope that local orchestras will invite them to return as they are one of the very best choirs from the former Soviet Union to have sung here.

Extraordinary baritone Dmitri Hovorostovsky's rendition of the song cycle *Russia Cast Adrift* by Georgii Vasilevich Sviridov (born 1915) was one of the highlights of the festival. Hovorostovsky's instrument is warm, deep, caressing and gripping. He will no doubt become identified with this extraordinary song cycle, which captures the trials and tribulations of the Russian people. Michael Ajzenstadt

Woyzeck, by Josef Nadj, is a theatrical nightmare, inspired by George Büchner's 1837 play, a tale of distress that is resolved by killing. Nadj creates an oppressive environment, befiting the grotesque figures, who busy themselves in futile acts such as trying to put a broken egg together again!

His wild inventiveness is impressive and the stage becomes thick with oppressive images in symbolic scenes. In one of them, a man cuts a piece of his own liver and nonchalantly eats it. Nadj takes the easy way, by concentrating on "interesting," photogenic wretchedness, and leaves his work devoid of compassion or hope. It makes you long for the abstraction of *Habakkuk*, his previous work at the Festival. Ora Braffman

The Rustaveli State Theater's attempt to encapsulate the passion and uncontrolled craving for power and dominance in *Macbeth* was just that - an attempt. The not-so-simultaneous Hebrew translation, projected very high above the stage, caused people with moile necks to ping-pong their heads up and down. In addition, the stage was barren, props were hard to find, and the murder-laden play was bloodless. Mid-show a man wandered onto the back of the stage with his video camera and at one point the translation broke down altogether, forcing the audience to stare at a Microsoft icon for 10 minutes. Georgians interviewed loved the show, so if you're Georgian or know *Macbeth* by heart you probably had a great time. Oh yeah, Lady Macbeth was kind of sexy. Robby Berman

In the performance by Mediterranean world-music maestro Omar Faruk Tekbilek and his ensemble, and the local band Bustan Avraham, the wannabe easily outshone the master. Tekbilek's performance often had a slick, New Age quality, whereas Bustan's glowed with exuberance. In listening to the Israeli ensemble's successful weaving of instruments as disparate as the banjo, oud, flute and qanoun, the audience was swept off on a journey and made partner to ecstasy, both spiritual and carnal. And from the smiles on their faces, it was clear that the band members were having as good a time as their audience. Emily Hauser

THEATER REVIEW

Sibling struggle



A bizarre will causes family tensions.

By NAOMI DOUDAI

This domestic drama groans with structural weaknesses, but it more than compensates for its technical shortcomings with its lively treatment of material that is at once amusing, agonizing, and riveting to local audiences. This, together with the actors, registers the kind of empathy that only this kind of homespun, Hebrew concoction can provoke.

The catastrophic wrench between siblings created by a bizarre, injudicious will is a familiar phenomenon in Israeli society. So much so that when the case of a billionaire hits the headlines, it raises little more than a wry smile.

In *The Heiress*, Ofer (Itzik Weingarten), brother of Noga (Iris Mor), finds himself cut out of a more modest will that benefits his sister alone. The effect is harrowing. To him the rejection symbolizes a withdrawal of maternal love. Not only does it come between him and his beloved sister, it has devastating effects on his professional and married life as slowly his personality fragments under the strain.

All three women players are outstanding here. Iris Mor gives a fresh, mischievous turn to the role of the sister, as sadly victimized ultimately as her brother. Hagit Ben-Ami is vivacious as the long-suffering wife. But it is Dvora Kedar as Malka, the meddling grandmother with the sharp-tongued, Yiddish-inspired patter, who gives the performance of the evening.

Poles to honor Bruno Schulz

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

The Polish Embassy is sponsoring a Bruno Schulz Week to honor the Jewish school-teacher who was posthumously categorized as one of Poland's leading writers between the two world wars. Shot dead by an SS officer in 1942, Schulz, who was also a talented artist, lived and worked in Drohobycz, the Jewish hamlet in which Menachem Begin was married and which now lies in Ukraine. But it was Schulz, who through his creative output, made Drohobycz immortal.

Three short documentaries on Schulz - *Schulz in Cracow*, *Sireer of Crocodiles on the Thames*; and *The Latest Schulz* will be screened at the Anna Ticho House in Jerusalem on Thursday and the Tel Aviv Cinematheque on Sunday. Cracow-born film director Krzysztof Miklaszewski, who was born two years after Schulz was murdered, directed these films and will be lecturing on Schulz in conjunction with the screenings. Miklaszewski, an expert on Schulz's prose, has published several academic works on his writings. He has also scripted and directed over 600 television programs, many of which have been devoted to Jewish culture in Poland and to Holocaust history.

CORRECTION:

Sveta Grozovsky, a student of Adam and Ilana Pasternak, won the fourth prize (NIS 2,000) in the Mia Arbatova Ballet Competition. Third-prize winner Ella Nagli is a student of Mirjam Kaufman.

BUSINESS

in brief

First-quarter average wage NIS 5,220

The gross average monthly wage stood at NIS 5,220 at the end of the first quarter, a 0.5 percent fixed terms increase on the same figure in March 1996, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. When including Judea, Samaria and Gaza, the average wage totalled NIS 5,170. *David Harris*

'96 budget deficit at 4.6% of GDP

The 1996 budget deficit, excluding granted net credit, reached 4.6 percent of the gross domestic product, or NIS 14 billion, according to Accountant General Shai Talmon's annual report, which will be published soon. This compares to the NIS 7.6b. originally budgeted. The main reason for this gap was a NIS 6.2b. shortfall in revenues. These figures contain slight alterations from the estimates published in January. *David Harris*

Ravitz MKs to take mayors to task

The Knesset Finance Committee will not allow local authorities to increase the municipal property tax until local authorities improve the management of their finances, committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said yesterday. "The councils must reduce expenditure," said Ravitz. "The public must feel the municipalities are doing their utmost." Ravitz was speaking after Friday's agreement between the Treasury and Union of Local Authorities, which brought the latter's three-week strike to an end, but included a tacit agreement to increases in the tax. MKs Ophir Pines (Labor) and Avraham Poraz (Meretz-Shinui) also criticized the agreement, saying it is unfair that the public should have to foot the bill. *David Harris*

MKs to banks: Offer all credit cards

The Knesset Economics Committee called yesterday on all banks to issue all credit cards to customers. "If the banks won't do it unilaterally then we'll introduce legislation," said committee chairman Eli Goldschmidt (Labor). On Sunday, Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles made the same appeal, and yesterday Goldschmidt requested Abeles act on his word and ensure the banks open the market to competition. *David Harris*

New economic chief at Foreign Ministry

Israel's Ambassador to Belgium Victor Harel was yesterday appointed the new Foreign Ministry assistant director-general for economics. He replaces Oded Eran, the new ambassador to Jordan. *David Harris*

Saudis, Chinese to sign energy cooperation deal

Saudi Arabia and China will sign an agreement this week aimed at boosting oil and petrochemical cooperation, the daily Arab News reported yesterday. It quoted Sheng Hua Ren, the visiting president of China Petrochemical Corporation, as saying that the pact will allow China to increase imports of Saudi crude oil beginning from the second half of this year, as well as providing the framework for a number of joint ventures. AP

Teva may move 120 jobs abroad due to patent laws

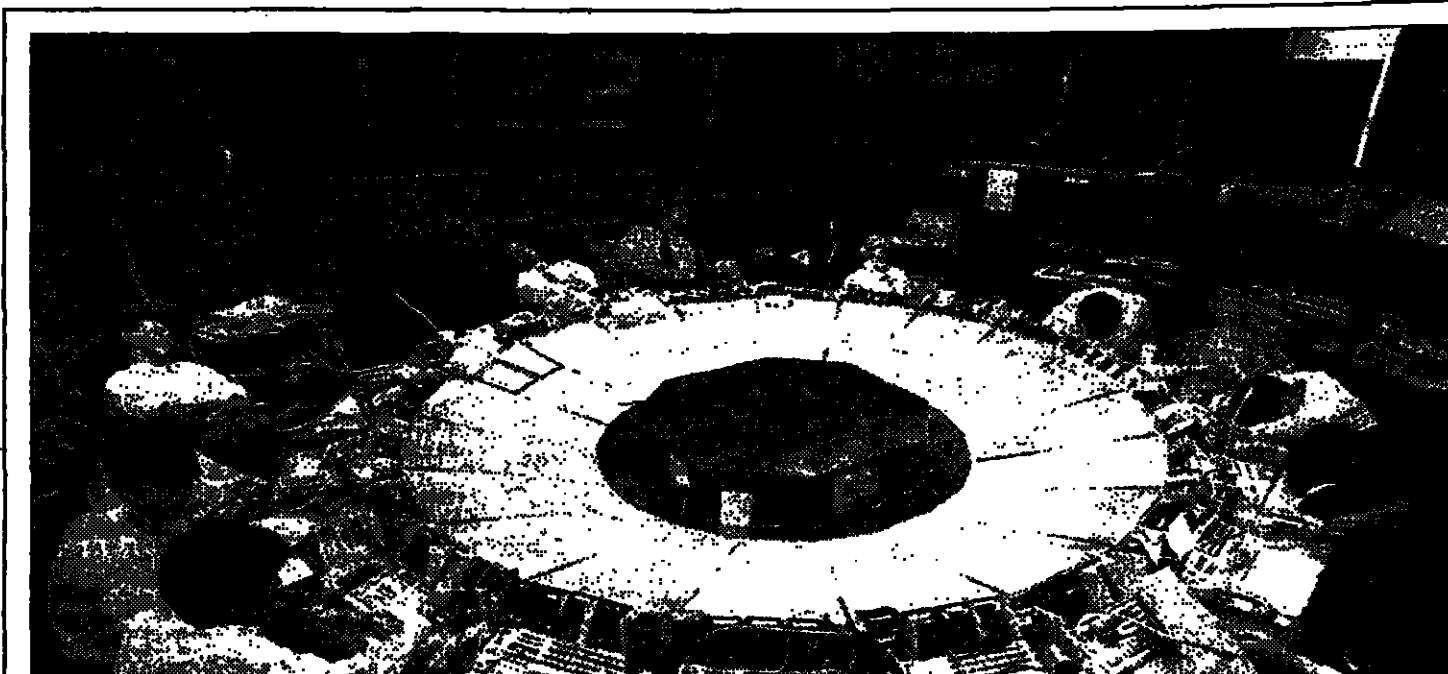
By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Restrictive Israeli patent laws might cause pharmaceutical giant Teva to move part of its research and development operations, including 120-150 jobs, to the US, company vice president Aaron Schwartz said yesterday. "We tried to negotiate with the Israeli courts, but under American and European pressure the law remained intact," Schwartz said. Other companies, which have a total of 16,000 R&D employees, are also affected by the current law, Schwartz said. Meanwhile, globalization trends are forcing Teva to also consider moving manufacturing facilities to Europe, Haim Benjamini, deputy director-general of human resources said last week during a seminar at

the Israel Management Center. The company is currently considering moving jobs to Teva's pre-existing manufacturing facilities, while upgrading local facilities to exploit Israel's relative advantage. "We want to adapt local facilities in order to adjust to the local cost of labor," Benjamini said. "We can do this by moving the simple work to our other facilities in countries like Hungary, Italy and the UK, while bringing new technologies to Israel and adapting our people here to those technologies." Benjamini said such a transition will not cause a loss of jobs. Teva's decision to move manufacturing facilities abroad reflects the difficulties many exporters are facing due to an unfavorable exchange rate, greater competition and high

production costs, Export Institute director-general Amir Hayek said. Over the past few years various low-tech companies have relocated manufacturing sites in low-cost countries and software manufacturers have begun farming out production jobs to countries like India, where wages are lower. Several other companies are currently considering moving operations abroad, Hayek said, refusing to disclose names. Some analysts offered a more cautious response regarding the effects current market conditions will have on exporters. Debra Kodish, executive director of institutional sales and research at Zamek Securities, said that the high cost of moving production facilities will prohibit a mass exodus.

The ban on imports from the Gulf states will remain in force, Industry and Trade Ministry Foreign Trade Administration Director Zohar Peri said this week, in response to Federation of Chambers of Commerce president Dan Gillerman's plea that it be lifted. The federation maintains a lifting of the ban can only be of benefit to the Israeli business community. The move could even be made unilaterally, wrote Gillerman in a letter to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky. "We will only do this when it is of benefit," said Peri. "There is currently no need. This takes a certain element of reciprocity." Peri also indicated the federation should "do its homework better" before sending such a letter. Restricted imports are already permissible from Qatar and Oman, Peri pointed out. Israel's Trade Representation Office head in Qatar Sami Ravel said it is important where relations already exist that Israel do its utmost to strengthen them. Speaking from Doha, Ravel said relations with Qatar are progressing, with both sides looking at joint infrastructure projects and business cooperation. However, it is difficult to fully open ties in light of the current negative atmosphere in the peace process. "Businesspeople need stability," he said. Trade volume with Arab and Moslem countries in general is far higher than data from the Central Bureau of Statistics suggests, according to federation Islamic Countries Section director Mandy Barak. The CBS cited the following totals for trade in the first quarter this year: Exports to Egypt - \$11 million (-16 percent on the same period last year); imports - \$6.7m. (+4%); Jordan - \$3.5m. (+400%); \$2.7m. (+500%); Morocco - \$1.4m. (\$30,000); Tunisia \$280,000, \$500 (thought to be in textiles); Mauritania \$100,000, \$0; United Arab Emirates \$4,400, \$0; and Oman \$48,000, \$0. "Trade with Morocco, for example, is many thousands of percent larger than these official figures," said Barak. However, Barak maintains trade with Israel's Arab neighbors will never be particularly sizable. He cited a variety of reasons including: The huge difference between the economies and markets is extremely difficult to bridge. The exception to this pattern is in the Gulf states, where there is a slightly higher per capita GDP and therefore Israeli exports become affordable, particularly in exchange for petroleum. The type of imports needed in Arab countries are largely not compatible with what Israel has to offer. Admitting that trade is carried out with most Arab states - including Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, usually via a third country or offshore company - Barak urged Israel not to enter these countries "with Israeli flags aloft," but rather take a gentle, quiet approach.



Yen soars to six-month high

Tokyo money brokers take a break before the start of afternoon trading after the US currency tumbled to the 111 yen level in the morning session yesterday. The dollar tumbled against the yen in Tokyo on the narrowing of the interest rate gap between the US and Japan, and fears of renewed trade friction between the two countries, dealers said. At one point the dollar fell to 111.80 yen, its lowest since November 25, 1996, from its close of 114.38 yen in New York on Friday. (Reuters)

BankAmerica buys Robertson Stephens investment house

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - BankAmerica Corp. yesterday joined the ranks of commercial banks acquiring an investment bank, saying it would buy Robertson Stephens & Co. Group LLC in a deal valued at up to \$540 million. In a separate transaction, BankAmerica also agreed to sell its Security Pacific Financial Services unit to Commercial Credit Co. for \$1.6 billion. Commercial Credit is a subsidiary of Travelers Group.

Commercial Credit said the price represents a premium of about \$300m. over the net tangible assets of the Security Pacific unit, which provides home equity and other real estate-secured loans through 297 branch offices, as well as unsecured loans and sales financing through retail merchants. It also includes about \$1.2b. of consumer finance receivables and \$70m. of other assets. BankAmerica said the Robertson Stephens transaction is structured so that a substantial

portion of the total payments will be used to retain more than 60 key Robertson Stephens officers for at least three to four years after the company becomes part of BankAmerica. BankAmerica said Michael McCaffery will continue as Robertson Stephens president and chief executive, reporting functionally to Mike Murray, president of BankAmerica's Global Wholesale Bank. Robertson Stephens chairman Sanford Robertson will be invited to join the BankAmerica board.

Korea's Hanwha to open local office

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Hanwha Ltd., Korea's ninth largest industrial concern, will establish a local representative office next month, said chairman Seung Yun Kim, who is currently here as part of a company delegation. Hanwha also announced a \$6.5 million deal with TAAS-Military Industries to purchase military parts. "There are many areas of business that Hanwha can develop via Israeli companies," said Kim Chul Hoon, who will be Hanwha's Israel-based representative. Hoon said that Hanwha is currently planning to expand its operation and is considering opening up a semiconductor plant here. He said Hanwha has been impressed by Israeli semiconductor companies and hopes to develop business arrangements with them. He did not name specific companies. After Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky traveled to Korea in December, Hanwha decided to visit Israel in search of joint ventures and investment opportunities. The company has visited Israeli telecommunications, semiconduc-

tor and biotechnology companies, as well as the Technion's Faculty of Space Engineering regarding satellite development. The concern is also discussing the development of defense technologies with Israel Aircraft Industries. Hanwha, whose interests span the chemical, machinery, electronics and securities-trading sectors, is looking to invest \$1.2 billion in 1997 in non-memory chip development. Israel's trade volume with Korea totals \$700m., with almost all the exports to Korea in high-tech products.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH Department of Assets and Services, Jerusalem Cancellation of Tender No. 160/97 and Announcement of Tender No. 165/97

- Notification is hereby given that the Tenders Committee of the Ministry of Health decided at its meeting of May 28, 1997, to cancel tender no. 160/97, in compliance with paragraph 0.8.2. of the tender.
- The committee decided that bidders who purchased the tender documents for the above-mentioned tender will be given a refund on presentation of the original receipt for the purchase of the documents. Bidders should contact Yaffa Eliaz, Department of Assets and Services, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, Jerusalem.
- The Ministry of Health hereby invites bids for the following tender:
Tender No. 165/97 - Computerized Hospital Management System for General Public Hospitals
- Period of Contract:
The entire development period + twelve months warranty with the option to extend for a further seven years.
- a) The tender documents and further information may be obtained from the secretariat of the Department of Assets and Services, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, The Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-568-1200, 568-1221, 568-1364 during regular working hours. The tender documents will be available from June 12, 1997.
b) The cost of the tender documents is NIS 3,000 which must be paid in to the account of the Department of Assets and Services of the Ministry of Health at the postal bank (account no. 0-03807-9). Suppliers who purchased the documents for tender no. 160/97 may receive the documents for the new tender at no extra charge on presentation of the original receipt for the purchase of the documents.
c) For further details, contact Michal Be'eri, Tel. 02-670-6812, Fax. 02-671-5570, during regular working hours.
- Bids must be placed in the tenders box at the front desk of the offices of the Ministry of Health, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, Jerusalem, by July 27, 1997, at 12 noon.
- a) Questions or objections should be sent in writing to Michal Be'eri, Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Jerusalem (Fax. 02-671-5570) by July 1, 1997.
b) Bidders who do not do so shall be considered as having consented to the terms of the tender.
- Basic Conditions for Submitting Bids:
a) Suppliers must be a legally corporate entity with at least five years experience in providing services of the kind explained in the tender documents, and whose turnover for 1996 was at least NIS 20 million, as certified by an accountant. Israeli subsidiaries, whose holding company complies with the above-mentioned conditions and is guaranteeing the bid, are entitled to submit bids.
b) A valid statement of turnover from an accountant, in compliance with the Income Tax Regulations, must be submitted.
c) The sum of NIS 3,000 must be paid in respect of the tender documents. This sum will not be returned. Payment for tender no. 160/97 is valid.
d) Proof of being a licensed dealer for VAT purposes must be attached to the bid.
e) An index-linked bank guarantee for the amount of NIS 750,000, valid for 150 days from the date on which the tender closes, must be attached.
f) All bidders, including bidders who took part in the suppliers meeting regarding tender no. 160/97, must attend a meeting of suppliers at 10 a.m. on July 10, 1997, at the Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Telport, Jerusalem in the meeting room in the basement.
- The main supplier must be a software company whose employees will develop and/or adapt the main system (patient management) and the applications as explained in the tender documents.
- Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation) - 1995 applies.
- The Ministry does not intend to engage in a process of "best and final".
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest bid, any part of it or any bid at all, or to order the entire project from one bidder. The Ministry is entitled to give preference to experienced bidders as explained in the tender documents, and to cancel, expand or reduce the scope of the tender because of budgetary and/or administrative and/or organizational reasons.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	3.050	3.250	3.024		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.575	4.000	4.750		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-		
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.6.97)					
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Req.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8624	3.7215	-	-	3.7021
U.S. dollar	3.3658	3.4212	3.30	3.47	3.4010
German mark	1.9583	1.8879	1.92	2.02	1.9842
Pound sterling	5.4984	5.2871	5.40	5.67	5.5823
French franc	0.5794	0.5988	0.58	0.60	0.5870
Japanese yen (100)	2.9583	2.9583	2.93	3.08	3.0224
Dutch florin	1.7390	1.7371	1.70	1.80	1.7537
Swiss franc	2.3341	2.3718	2.29	2.41	2.3861
Swedish krona	0.4327	0.4397	0.42	0.45	0.4377
Norwegian krona	0.4720	0.4787	0.46	0.48	0.4777
Danish krona	0.5138	0.5221	0.50	0.53	0.5212
Finnish mark	0.6507	0.6612	0.63	0.68	0.6569
Canadian dollar	2.4276	2.4687	2.38	2.51	2.4558
Australian dollar	2.5609	2.6023	2.51	2.64	2.6058
S. African rand	0.7471	0.7592	0.67	0.78	0.7554
British franc (10)	0.8482	0.8635	0.83	0.86	0.8614
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7794	2.8243	2.73	2.87	2.8195
Italian lira (1000)	1.9835	2.0156	1.94	2.05	2.0073
Jordanian dinar	4.7467	4.8253	4.68	5.01	4.8484
European unit	0.9500	1.0400	0.96	1.04	1.0715
EBU	3.8115	3.8790	3.79	3.95	3.8852
Irish punt	5.0871	5.1488	4.96	5.29	5.1284
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3116	2.3489	2.27	2.39	2.3431
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel					
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI					

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

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MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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NEW YORK

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TASE ROUNDUP

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NYSE

Table listing NYSE market data with columns for index name, last price, and change.

NYSE STOCKS

Table listing NYSE stocks with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NYSE COMMODITIES

Table listing NYSE commodities with columns for commodity name, last price, and change.

NYSE METAL FIXES

Table listing NYSE metal fixes with columns for metal name, last price, and change.

NYSE LONDON

Table listing NYSE London market data with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NYSE PARIS

Table listing NYSE Paris market data with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NYSE FRANKFURT

Table listing NYSE Frankfurt market data with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

NYSE LOCAL CURRENCIES

Table listing NYSE local currencies with columns for currency name, last price, and change.

Koor, Elco lead market to new high

Stock indexes rose to records yesterday, led by holding companies Koor Industries Ltd. and Elco Holdings Ltd.

The Mishtanim Index of 100 issues rose 0.21 percent to 300.71.

By ROBERT DANIEL

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Mishtanim 292.63 ▲ 0.19%

Maof 300.71 ▲ 0.21%

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World Market Roundup

Signs of EMU chaos alarms Euro markets

LONDON (Reuters) - French and German shares were badly shaken yesterday by renewed market fears over European economic and monetary union (EMU).

The worries were triggered when France's new Socialist-led government called for a "period of reflection" on a pact limiting budget deficits of countries that join a single European currency.

"This all begs the question - how is the euro going to be achieved?" said one Frankfurt share dealer. "One thing is sure, if people really start to worry about this, there will be chaos in the markets," he added.

Analysts said the French demand, which amounted to a delay in the timetable for ratification of the so-called stability pact, added more uncertainty to the creation of the euro, but did not spell the end of EMU.

The Paris Bourse, which was trading lower before the comments, slid to 2.2 percent down but then rebounded off its lows and ended with a loss of just 1.2 percent, down 33.05 points at 2,686.20.

Blue chips break more records

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Wall Street's blue chip stocks closed higher yesterday, extending their gain into record territory following Friday's sharp 130-point rise.

According to early, unofficial results, the Dow Jones industrial average gained 42.72 points to end at 4,778.50 for its second consecutive record finish.

The Nasdaq index added 7.32 points to 1,412.16.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM Conducted Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur., 11 a.m. from Briton Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 4a, 8, 23, 28, 29. For info, call 5882818. HADASSAH. Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-6416333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, daily 04-8374253.

MUSEUMS TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tel Aviv Museum. Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary art.

TEL AVIV: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, gynecology, ENT); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, obstetrics); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (pediatrics).

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DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

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Source: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 6-JUN-97) *In local currencies

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Gustavo Kuerten prepares to serve to Sergi Bruguera during the French Open final which the Brazilian won in straight sets. (Reuters)

'Guga' is all the rage

Brazilian Kuerten adds samba beat to French Open lore

PARIS (AP) - Two weeks ago, most people had never heard of Gustavo Kuerten. Guess what? The 20-year-old Brazilian nicknamed "Guga" is a Grand Slam champion.

Kuerten routed Sergi Bruguera 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 Sunday to win the French Open and become the lowest ranked player (No. 66) to capture a Grand Slam title.

The victory capped one of the most improbable tournaments in Grand Slam history, with a player coming out of nowhere to beat three former French Open champions en route to his first four-level victory of any kind.

Kuerten is the first Brazilian man to win a Grand Slam, and only the third unseeded player to win the French Open, following Marcel Bernard in 1946 and Mats Wilander in 1982.

Kuerten had never advanced past a quarterfinal in any four-level event and was playing only the 49th match of his career. Three weeks ago, he was playing - and winning - a small-time satellite tournament in Curitiba, Brazil.

Yet, Kuerten sailed through a field decimated by upsets, beating former champions Thomas Muster (1995), Yevgeny Kafelnikov (1996) and Bruguera (1993, 1994) along the way.

Kuerten's victory followed Saturday's surprise in the women's final, where No. 9 Iva Majoli stunned Martina Hingis in straight sets to become the lowest seeded Grand Slam champion of the Open era.

Urged on by his grandmother, Olga, and other family and friends, pumped up by chants of "Guga-Guga!"

Kuerten played a virtually flawless match, seemingly oblivious to the grandeur of the occasion, grinning throughout.

"I did every shot perfectly," he said. "Today was my best match of the tournament. I didn't think, 'Wow, it's a final and I have to win.' I just play like I practice. I was pretty relaxed."

The match lasted 1 hour, 50 minutes, the

fastest final since 1980 when Bjorn Borg beat Vitas Gerulaitis in 1:46.

Kuerten bowed deeply to Borg, the six-time French Open champion who presented him with the trophy. He also embraced Guillermo Vilas, winner in 1977, before holding up the cup and kissing it.

"It was the first time I really believed that I had won," Kuerten said.

He dedicated the victory to his father, who died while umpiring a tennis match when Kuerten was 8 years old.

"He was the person I really loved and I miss him a lot," Kuerten said. "This trophy and this tournament goes to him, and I'm sure he's really happy right now."

An hour after the match, a samba band struck up Brazilian rhythms inside the Roland Garros complex, with fans chanting, "Gu-Ga! Gu-Ga!"

Kuerten emerged on a balcony with his coach, Larri Passos. He struggled to pop open a bottle of champagne before spraying the bubbly over his fans.

"I never won a title - that's why I don't know how to open champagne," he said.

Hailing from the seaside town of Florianopolis in the southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina, Kuerten is a scrawny 6-foot-3 surfing enthusiast who looks as if he could have walked straight off the beach.

Dressed from head to toe in the colors of Brazil, he wore a blue and yellow shirt, blue shorts, yellow socks, blue shoes and a checkered bandana. The only white in his outfit was a small stripe down the side of his shorts.

"I think Wimbledon, I have to change my clothes, maybe," he said.

Bruguera, the lowest seed at No. 16, is one of the strongest clay-court players of his generation. But Sunday, he was helpless as Kuerten dictated the points, moving him from side to side, stepping in to knock off winners. Kuerten's biggest

weapon was his forehand.

"He played an outstanding match," Bruguera said. "Maybe I wait for him to give me the match, and he went for the match."

By the fifth game of the match, when he broke for the first time, Kuerten started skipping between points, pumping his fist and hopping back into position.

Kuerten broke Bruguera six times, twice in each set, while losing his own serve only once. He lost only four points on serve until he was broken for the only time midway through the second set.

The key moment came in the ninth game of the second set at 4-4.

With Kuerten serving, he faced three break points and saved all three to win the game. Energized, he ran to his chair for the changeover.

"That was the worst part in the match for me," Kuerten said.

"But I really was calm and I went for big shots." The game seemed to deflate Bruguera.

Kuerten broke him in the next game to close the set with a forehand winner.

In the third set, Kuerten converted two identical backhand drop shots that were so well disguised, so perfectly placed, that Bruguera didn't even move for either of them. That put Kuerten up 4-2.

Two games later, Kuerten broke again to close the match, with Bruguera netting a backhand approach shot on the final point.

Kuerten bent over, then held up his arms, as his friends and family hugged each other wildly in the guest box. His mother unfurled the red, green and white state flag of Santa Catarina.

Kuerten earned \$695,448 - nearly three times his career earnings of \$284,778. He said the money would go into his savings.

"I just have all that I need right now," he said. "I mean, my life is perfect even before this tournament. I have everything that I need."

Sampras, Hingis face uncertain times

PARIS (Reuters) - Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis will sweep through the gates at Wimbledon this month wondering if the world of tennis will ever recover its equilibrium following a French Open which defied logic right to the end.

Gustavo Kuerten's stunning triumph in the men's final in Paris, not to mention Iva Majoli's success over Hingis the previous day, will not count for much when the newly-crowned champions attempt to win a match on grass for the first time in their careers at the All England Club.

But if the odds on the pair repeating their Roland Garros success in London are about the same as the French voting to adopt fish and chips as their national dish, the Paris experience was unsettling for both world number ones.

Hingis, in particular, now knows she can take nothing for granted if she wants to build a grand slam career record to compare with her predecessors Steffi Graf and Monica Seles.

The 16-year-old should enjoy plenty of marvellous days into the next millennium but Saturday's women's final was definitely not one of them. She blamed Majoli's 6-4, 6-2 win on tiredness, yet the Croat was among those who felt there was not much physically wrong with her opponent.

"I knew she was confident but I

also knew she was not unbeatable," said Majoli, now fifth in the world despite never having won a match at Wimbledon in two previous visits.

Majoli is now concentrating on her first hurdle at Wimbledon where the grass is so alien she joked she would have to spend the next two weeks eating it as preparation.

"My next dream is to win my first round match at Wimbledon...I've never won a match there in the juniors, the doubles or the singles," she said. "I'm prepared to die on court at Wimbledon just to win that first round."

Beyond that, Majoli feels she is now ready to threaten the established elite, many of whom are showing increasing signs of strain.

"I know Martina is number one and there is also Steffi and Monica but I feel I can fight with them for first place," Majoli insisted. "I think I'm ready. That's my next goal."

Sampras, meanwhile, will have watched Kuerten's 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 success with distinctly mixed feelings.

His dreams of winning the French title for the first time looked closer to reality than ever until a stomach bug fatally weakened his resistance in his third round encounter with Sweden's

Magnus Norman, a result which helped propel Belgian qualifier Filip Dewulf into a semifinal with Kuerten.

On most surfaces on most days, Sampras might expect to have too much power for the Brazilian but is prone to attracting sudden problems when the horizon looks completely clear.

He will still be regarded as favorite to collect his third Wimbledon title in four years but there were subtle hints from the likes of Pat Rafter, Mark Philippoussis and Yevgeny Kafelnikov that he may be forced to work harder than ever.

Goran Ivanisevic, a first round loser in Paris, also remains more than capable of following Majoli's lead and completing a notable Croatian double but Kuerten is not expecting to succeed Bjorn Borg in 1980 as the last man to win the French and Wimbledon in the same year.

"It's a great feeling but I'm not thinking too much about the future," admitted the colourful Brazilian, preparing for his first appearance in the main draw at the All England Club.

"For Wimbledon I have to change my clothes but that will not be my biggest problem. I'll go there to learn and, if I'm lucky, to win some rounds."

The next threat to Sampras, it seems, will lie elsewhere.

Croatia hails Majoli's 'first tango in Paris'

ZAGREB (Reuters) - Croatia's press hailed their new sporting hero Iva Majoli yesterday after her triumph in the French Open on Saturday made her the first Croatian winner of a Grand Slam singles title.

"Iva's victory at Roland Garros was the most beautiful tango in Paris. It was the first tango she danced at Grand Slam tournaments but it will not be the last," the daily *Vjesnik* said.

All the dailies splashed pictures of an exuberant Majoli, clad in a flower-patterned dress after upsetting world No. 1 Martina Hingis, holding the heavy-winner's cup that she so surprisingly captured.

Immediately after her victory Croatian television showed several minutes of film replaying the best moments of the match, with shots of her jubilant mother and friends and close-ups of her unbelieving smile after Hingis netted the last ball of the match.

"After Iva Majoli's triumph at Roland-Garros on Saturday nothing will ever be the same for Croatian

tennis. Because that Saturday of June 7 Iva Majoli and Croatia tennis were inscribed in sport history books," *Vjesnik* reported from Paris.

Papers reported that President Franjo Tudman had sent congratulations to Majoli for her "majestic victory," on behalf of all the Croatian public and personally.

The only press criticism was of senior officials from the Croatian Tennis Association and the Croatian Olympic Committee, some of whom turned up at the airport to welcome the new champion home.

"The Queen of Paris deserves a better welcome," said *Stjepan Dalmacija*. Majoli herself expressed no disappointment in her arrival: she was welcomed only by her family, friends and some journalists.

"I'm stronger both mentally and physically," she said.

St. Kilda, Adelaide win

MELBOURNE (AP) - The Adelaide Crows took a 33-point first-quarter lead Sunday en route to a 52-point win over Melbourne in an Australian Football League Australian Rules football match.

The Crows won their third straight road game, defeating Melbourne 14.13 (97) to 5.15 (45).

In the other Sunday match, St.Kilda's Robert Harvey collected 35 possessions in the Saints' surprise 16-point victory over West Coast, 13.11 (89) to 11.7 (73).

Sydney rediscovered its 1996 form on its way to a 35-point win over rookie club Port Adelaide on Saturday. The Swans outplayed and out-ran Port from the start to rout winners 10.16 (76) to 4.17 (41) and record just their second road win of the season.

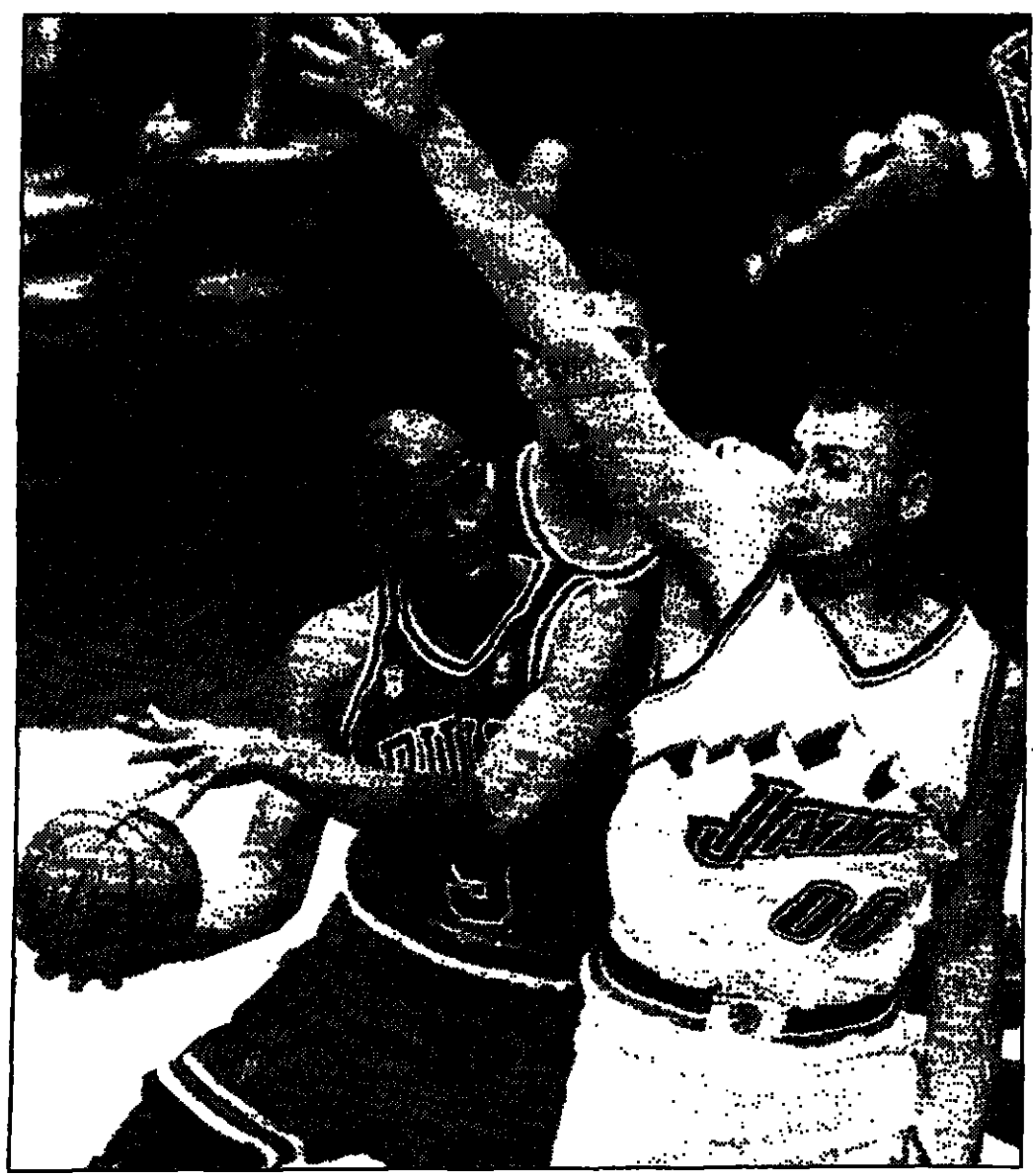
Essendon lost its fifth straight match and seven of its past eight, dropping a 17.22 (124) to 13.13 (91) decision to Hawthorn.

The Western Bulldogs continued their resurgence with a 21-point victory over second-placed

Geelong. The Bulldogs won 14.12 (96) to 11.9 (75).

On Friday, Richmond celebrated Robert Walls' 60th appearance as a player and coach with a six-point win over Collingwood. In front of more than 70,000 fans, the Tigers, who last week lost to last-place Melbourne, won 11.11 (77) to 10.11 (71).

Yesterday, North Melbourne 15.15 (105) def. Fremantle 12.7 (79) and Carlton 12.12 (84) def. Brisbane Lions 9.9 (63) to complete the holiday schedule.



BULLS AT BAY - Utah's Greg Ostertag (r) attempts to block a shot by Chicago's Ron Harper. The Jazz won 78-73 to square the series at two games apiece. (Reuters)

Hardwood 'Hail Mary'

Stockton's full-court pass to Malone gives Jazz shot in the arm

NEW YORK (AP) - The Chicago Bulls learned the hard way that complacency has in common with Stockton-to-Malone. Drop your guard for the tiniest moment and - BAM! - both will go back-door against you.

That was exactly what happened Sunday night with 44 seconds left in Game 4 of the NBA Finals in Salt Lake City. Michael Jordan took a jumper and missed. His backcourt mate at the time, Steve Kerr, slid underneath the basket instead of rotating back on defense.

John Stockton rebounded the ball, spotted soulmate Karl Malone running the floor and let fly with a long, arching pass.

It went over Scottie Pippen, past Toni Kukoc and just beyond the reach of Jordan, desperately racing back to cover Malone.

"I know it will play over and over in my mind, like I could have got that pass," Jordan said. "But I was off-stride. I didn't have the momentum to go up and get it."

Malone did. After rushing out to try and block Jordan's jumper, he put his head down and simply kept on running. The small act of faith was rewarded when Stockton's pass reached him in full stride.

Malone converted the layup and put Utah ahead for good, 74-73.

The ball wasn't in the air for more than a second or two. But it was long enough to become the signature play for two men who have executed it selfishly a few thousand times in the dozen years they've been together.

The amazing thing is not that it worked. And the reason for that is that Stockton and Malone have never tired of trying to perfect their combination. There are any number of variations to the pass - sometimes Malone comes off screens to get the ball, sometimes he picks and then rolls. Usually they run it over shorter distances, and in tighter quarters. But never on a bigger occasion.

"I'll remember it forever," Malone said. "It had to be the perfect pass."

Leaving home up two games to none, the Bulls said all the right things for public consumption. They insisted anybody who thought they were going to Utah expecting a coronation should have their head examined.

"We realized this was not over when we left Chicago," Pippen said. "We know how good they play at home." Whether they believed it then, the series is tied 2-2 and everybody on the Chicago side of the ball now understands they are actually playing against someone else - that it is not only the Bulls that can beat the Bulls.

"We came here to win one game, and if we play like we did tonight, we will win the next game," Chicago coach Phil Jackson said.

That remains to be seen. Last year in the final round, the Bulls dropped two games in Seattle, but the losses turned out to be nothing more than a lapse on Chicago's part. Once they got the fragile, self-centered SuperSonics back in Chicago, all doubts were quickly erased.

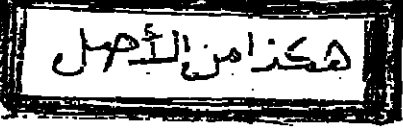
Utah, on the other hand, looks poised, opportunistic and more confident the longer it is allowed to share the stage.

Naturally, everybody is looking to Jordan to bail Chicago out - no matter that such thinking is probably to blame for nearly every one of the Bulls' losses. He nearly did it one more time Sunday night, but Jordan's attempt at a game-tying 3-pointer bounced out.

Afterward, he talked about being mortal, about not being able to score 60 points or hit the big shot night in and night out. His biggest assignment came tomorrow night might be convincing his teammates not to wait to see him proved mortal again.

"I anticipate this team," he said, "will realize it's crunch time." They better. Before someone starts knocking at the back door again.

First T
Australia
conjure W
Golf history
Washington



First Test is one for the record books

LONDON (AP) - Records were broken, milestones reached and precedents set in the action-packed Edgbaston Test won by England - perhaps the most extraordinary opening match in the 110-year history of the Ashes.

Certainly the first morning provided one of the most dramatic starts to the series. Who would have thought that the Australians, winners of the last five series and the unofficial world champions, would have been only 54 runs with the loss of eight wickets after just 96 minutes of play? The tourists came perilously close to being the first Test nation in the history of the game to be dismissed in the first session.

The Aussies were stunned, the English were ecstatic. The unprecedented start made the front and back pages of nearly every English daily. But for the home team and its supporters, the best was yet to come.

Nasser Hussain's double century was a classic and maturely-crafted innings. In over seven hours at the crease he struck some vehement hooks and pulls and sweetly-timed drives, 38 boundaries in all.

He drove spinner Michael Bevan to the boundary for his first hundred; he hit on-drive to the boundary off paceman Glenn McGrath and leg spinner Shane Warne to register England's 350 and 400; and, picking Warne's flipper, he cracked the world's best wrist spinner to the point boundary to bring up his historic 200.

Hussain became only the seventh Englishman to score a double hundred against the Australians and the first since David Gower's flamboyant 215 on the same ground in 1985.

With Graham Thorpe, who scored his fifth Test century and third against the Australians, he shared a record 228-run partnership for the fourth wicket, all but sealing Australia's fate after it had been dismissed for a paltry 118.

Hussain and Thorpe broke a 59-year-old fourth-wicket Ashes record. Eddie Paynter and Walter Hammond had scored 222 runs at Lord's in 1938.

Behind 360 runs, the hardened Australians were down, but not out.

Incredibly, skipper Mark Taylor played the innings of his life under unrivaled pressure, scoring a defiant 129. It was his 15th Test hundred and his first Test hundred in 25 innings.

"I don't think anyone really knows how



DESERVED CONGRATULATIONS - Australian captain Mark Taylor shakes the hand of his counterpart, Mike Atherton after England won the first Test at Edgbaston on Sunday.

much pressure Mark has been under, and for him to pull this off just shows you what kind of guy he is," said Australian coach Geoff Marsh.

"It was just a great innings and showed a ton of guts." With his determined seven-hour effort Taylor won the rare distinction of scoring a century in the first Test of each of his Ashes tours here, adding to his 136 at Headingley in 1989 and his 124 at Manchester in 1993.

Taylor's key partner in Australia's comeback was Greg Blewett, with whom he shared a 194-run second-wicket stance.

The free-scoring Blewett went from 70 to his fourth Test hundred in 17 balls and reached it with three fours off as many deliveries.

In another rare milestone, Blewett's century

made him the first Australian to score a hundred in his first three Ashes Tests.

By lunch Sunday skeptics may have been thinking that England's best two days of cricket this summer had already come and gone.

But Darren Gough mirrored his efforts of the first innings and, with the assistance of fellow seamer Mark Ealham, ripped through the Australian middle-order and had the tourists all out soon after tea. The last four Australian wickets fell for 12 runs.

England captain and opening batsman Mike Atherton, playing in his record-equaling 41st Test as captain (level with Peter May), then had the opportunity to make history.

A win would give England a 1-0 advantage in the Ashes for the first time in 10 years, when Mike Gatting's tourists won in Brisbane

before going on to win the series 2-1. The winners of the first Test in the last five series have gone on to win the Ashes.

Victory, following England's 2-0 triumph in New Zealand, would also give England three consecutive wins for the first time since 1991-92 when they beat West Indies, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Chasing 118 to win, Atherton raced to his 32nd half-century, and in the process passed 5,000 Test runs in 68 Tests. When his vice-captain Alec Stewart crunched Warne to the cover boundary for the winning runs, the ecstatic Edgbaston crowd flooded the field.

Stewart grabbed a stump or two as a memento. The crowd sang and chanted "England, England." It was as if the series, not just one match, had already been won.

Australia seek to conjure Warne magic

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - Australia's priority after being trounced by England in the first Ashes Test is to get Shane Warne into match-winning shape for the season's showpiece at Lord's.

Warne's wrist spin is such a crucial element to Australia's attack that after a low-key start to the tour, it is imperative he is bowling more incisively in the second Test starting at cricket's traditional headquarters in 10 days time.

Much of the touring team's work in the two three-day matches between now and the Lord's Test - against Nottinghamshire and county champions Leicestershire - will almost certainly be devoted to improving the performance of the attack as a whole.

Australia's bowlers suffered heavy punishment as England shrugged off an uncertain start with positive batting on their way to a nine-wicket victory on the fourth day here at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Warne took one for 110 in 35 overs in the first innings while the pace bowling burden fell on Glenn McGrath and Michael Kasprovicz after Jason Gillespie broke down with a hamstring problem after he bowled only 10 overs.

Injuries to Gillespie and Andy Bichel prompted the tour management to seek a pace bowling reinforcement, and the selectors chose Paul Reiffel, who is due to join the party today.

Reiffel is a proven performer in English conditions, having finished top of Australia's Test averages in the last Ashes series here in 1993 when he took 19 wickets at 20.84 in three Tests.

Australian captain Mark Taylor, having ended his form crisis with a courageous 129 in the second innings, believes his side can now focus on producing improved form all round.

"It's not the time for panic," he said. "We've got to work out ways



OUT OF SORTS - A dejected Shane Warne despairs at his inability to win the battle against England's batsmen.

(Reuters)

to do the job better." England's buoyant team, having won the opening Test of an Ashes series for the first time since 1986-87, are nonetheless adopting a level-headed approach, with five more Tests to come.

Nasser Hussain, vice-captain and captain of the match for his test-best 200, said: "We are not getting carried away, but this was a brilliant feeling."

"There are many people in that dressing room who have been beaten by Australia in the past. We will enjoy the moment and drink some champagne, but there is a long way to go."

"It was a convincing win, but the importance of this series is to judge ourselves on how far we have come along as a team."

Shearer, Ronaldo come face to face for first time

PARIS (Reuters) - Alan Shearer, the world's most expensive footballer, and Ronaldo, the player poised to dispossess him of that title, play against each other for the first time when England meet Brazil in the Tournoi de France tonight.

The closest they have come before is when they spent time together in Lisbon earlier this year to collect their awards after Ronaldo, 20, was named the World Player of the Year and Shearer, 26, was voted third in poll taken among the world's national team managers and coaches. Liberian George Weah finished second.

Interestingly, England coach Glenn Hoddle voted for Ronaldo, Shearer and Weah in that order.

"He's a very nice, ordinary down to earth lad who seems able to handle all of the fame and adulation coming his way in a very level-headed way," Shearer said of Ronaldo recently.

"We spent most of the day together, talking about life as you do, and football. I liked him." And Ronaldo paid Shearer the highest compliment when he said: "My ambition is to do for my country what Alan Shearer does for his - score important goals regularly."

"Everyone has heard of Alan Shearer, he is one of the great players in the world today and he is the standard you have to judge yourself by. And everyone interested in football has heard of Ronaldo too. Barely out of his teens, he is about to leave Barcelona for Inter Milan for a reported transfer fee of £50 million (\$81.6 million). That dwarfs the £15 million Newcastle United paid Blackburn Rovers for Shearer last summer."

As Shearer says: "I love having the tag of being the world's most expensive player, but real goals are made to be broken. As an awful lot of money is pay for one

player though isn't it? But they must have faith in him or else they wouldn't be doing it."

"He is very strong, very fast and has a good first touch and can run from the halfway line, beat three or four defenders and stick the ball in the back of the net."

"Although he is so young he is already at one of the biggest clubs in the world and can only become a bigger and bigger name."

"I am looking forward to playing against him. It is always good playing against the best opposition and to compare yourself." Shearer and Ronaldo have each scored one goal in the Tournoi, with Shearer grabbing England's late winner against France on Saturday and Ronaldo scoring with an excellent solo goal in the 3-3 draw against Italy on Sunday.

Shearer's goal was his 11th in his last 11 internationals and the 16th in his 34 England appearances. Ronaldo has played 20 times for Brazil and scored 13 times.

The style of the two men is not entirely dissimilar. Both use their strength to create room and time for themselves, both have an innate sense of where the goal is, and both are blessed with the talent to exploit the chances that come their way.

They differ mainly in their approach to goal. Ronaldo is full of running and willing to dribble through a maze of defenders to score. Shearer uses more guile, taking up positions while team mates behind him create the chances for him to snap up.

"I think England have played very well to have won the Tournoi de France beating Italy and France" added Ronaldo. "But I think we will show England (today) that we are the world champions and that we can beat them." Shearer, for one, might just have something to say about that.

France looking to bounce back against Italy

PARIS (Reuters) - World Cup hosts France can take inspiration from Italy's performance against Brazil to end the dress rehearsal for the 1998 finals on a high note.

France seek to bounce back from defeat when they face the Italians in their closing Tournoi de France match at Parc des Princes tomorrow.

Italy drew 3-3 with world champions Brazil in Lyon on Sunday in a superb match, the result handing the tournament to England, 1-0 winners against France the previous night in Montpellier.

But that defeat, too, could galvanize the French so they bow out of the Tournoi with a performance closer to their 1-1 draw with Brazil in the opening match in Lyon last Tuesday.

"Perhaps we need that (defeat) to relaunch ourselves," said AC Milan's Christophe Dugary, one of several strikers whom coach Aimé Jacquet is hoping can resolve France's problems of a dearth of goals.

At Montpellier, France lost their first home match since November 1993 when a shock loss to Bulgaria in Paris denied them a place in the 1994 World Cup finals.

Jacquet's team, in the light of the performances of their three rivals in the tournament who have scored 10 goals between them, are still World Cup outsiders.

Cesare Maldini's Italians, meanwhile, have recovered their standing quickly after the faux pas against England, who beat them 2-0 in Nantes on Wednesday.

SPORTS

in brief

Wiko Hadad to coach Bnei Yehuda

Bnei Yehuda announced yesterday that the club has chosen Wiko Hadad as its new coach for the upcoming soccer season.

Hadad takes over from Boaz Sulami, who resigned last month following a dispute over the National League club's budget and its ability to remain a competitive unit by hiring top-class players. Hadad will start work at the Hatikva Quarter ground today. Ori Lewis

Bayern: Man Utd want defender Babel

MUNICH (Reuters) - Bayern Munich manager Uli Hoeness confirmed yesterday he had received an offer from English premier league champions Manchester United for defender Markus Babel. Hoeness said they were having talks about Babel and a decision was expected in the next few days over a possible deal that German press reports have put at 14 million marks (£5 million.) Asked to confirm reports German league champions Bayern were negotiating Babel's transfer, if Babel goes to Manchester United it would mark the third transfer from Bayern, who clinched a record 14th German league title just over a week ago. Germany striker Juergen Klinsmann has already signed for Italy's Sampdoria and German international wing-back Christian Ziege is joining Italy's AC Milan.

Quinnell third injured Lion to go home

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Welsh number eight Scott Quinnell became the third injured British Lion to be sent home in the space of a week yesterday after a recurring groin injury ended his tour of South Africa.

"Sadly, Scott is the third player - after Paul Grayson and Doddy Weir - that we've had to send home from this tour in only one week." Lions media liaison officer Bob Burrows said yesterday. Quinnell, who had impressed in his early tour appearances, was a front runner with England's Tim Rodber for the number eight berth in the upcoming Test series against South Africa.

LOCAL SCENE

Kobi Hacham wins national golf title

By HEATHER CHAIT

Kobi Hacham won the 36th national championships at Caesarea Golf Club with an exceptional four below par 301 from 72 holes. Left in second place was Oren Geri with 308.

Sheila Gillon won the women's section with 308, sending Tamar Renasia into second place with 321. In the 36 hole category, Mike Ossip won with 165 and Norma Kaufman led the women's section with 196.

One hundred and fifty golfers from around the country competed. Tennis: After nine rounds in the league, four teams have reached the playoffs to be held in October. They are Ramle Sports Club, Ironi Lod A, Elitzur Kochav Yair and ASA Tel Aviv. The teams sinking to the second division are Maccabi North Power and Maccabi Kfar Hamaccabiah.

In the struggle for promotion are Ironi Lod B and Maccabi Kiryat Ono. This week's ATP Tour rankings have Eyal Ran on 142, Oren Motevassel on 185, Eyal Erlich on 207, Raviv Weidenfeld on 238 and Nir Weigreen on 277.

Athletics: Lifting the national athletic championships into the international league will be a host of top-class athletes. Alexander Golovsky from Belarus, Europe's No. 1 long jumper (8.33m) will be competing both in the long jump and in the triple-jump event where his record equals that of Rogel Nahum at 17.20m.

Also in the triple-jump will be Latvian champion Maurice Brozinski whose best distance this year is 17.30m, one centimeter below his personal best. High jumper Yugoslav Dragon

Topich, Europe's No. 2 (2.35m), has also indicated his willingness to appear. Meanwhile local runner Ophir Shmueli improved his own record in the 110m hurdles by 11-hundredths of a second to 14:24 seconds over the weekend.

For the world champs in August, Shmueli needs to crack 14:02. Cricket: Tel Aviv is the only unbeaten team in the first division and they were not to be rattled by Neveh Yoranat on Saturday. Tel Aviv made 169 (L. Perreira 67) against Neveh Yoranat's 123.

Also in the first division, Lions Lod made 236/7 against Beersheva's 179. Beersheva B, in the second division, beat Kiryat Gat, making 138 against their desert neighbor's 95.

Maccabiah minutes: The Maccabi movement will welcome for the first time sporting delegations from Morocco and from Cuba. Morocco, the first Arab country to compete at a Maccabiah, will send 21 sportspeople to the Youth Games.

Tennis bowling: Another season has ended with Ramat Gan taking first place in the league, followed by Holon and Rehovot. In the individual lists, Ramat Gan's Yossi Strauss was first with 200.4 points, Shimon Cohen of Rehovot followed with 194.5 and Karmel Mussa from Rishon LeZion was third with 194.2.

The two teams plunging to the second league are Netanya and Petah Tikva. Winning the women's league were Rishon LeZion with Ramat Gan and Holon behind. Ramat Gan's Lisa Shalom led the women (186.5), beating Sara Aviram from Holon with 179.4. Netanya won the youth category with Rehovot's Yahav Rabin the highest pointscorer on 186.7.

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Golf history expected as Washington hosts Open

BETHESDA, Md. (Reuters) - The US Open has returned to historic Washington and a lot of history can be expected to unfold at the grand old Congressional Country Club, where presidents play and where history-making Tiger Woods is seeking to win the second leg of golf's Grand Slam.

This year's Open, in fact, has already made history of sorts with the decision to end the championship on a par-3 hole, which has angered some traditionalists - including Ken Venturi, who won the last Open played at Congressional in 1964 in a memorable finish, surviving stifling heat and the fast 36-hole finish in Open history.

Venturi, then a 33-year-old struggling pro and now a television commentator, and others including most of Congressional's members, many of them members of Congress - protested against using the course's regular 18th hole, a par-3 over water, to conclude the Championship.

It is the first time since 1909 that the US Open has ended on a one-shot hole.

When Venturi won here, part of Congressional's second course was used and the championship ended on the 480-yard hole that will be the 17th this year.

Congressional's Blue Course is the longest in Open history at 7,113 yards. It plays to only par 70 because two par-5s have been changed to daunting par-4s.

With Congressional's lush grass cut to no less than five inches and its sloping greens shining until they glisten, no one expects to have a lot of fun. The weather is not expected to add to the misery as it did in 1994.

When the championship starts on Thursday all eyes will be on the 21-year-old Woods, who, as the previous champion, has the opportunity to become the first to win the history to win the modern Grand Slam - the Masters, US Open, British Opens and the US PGA Championship.

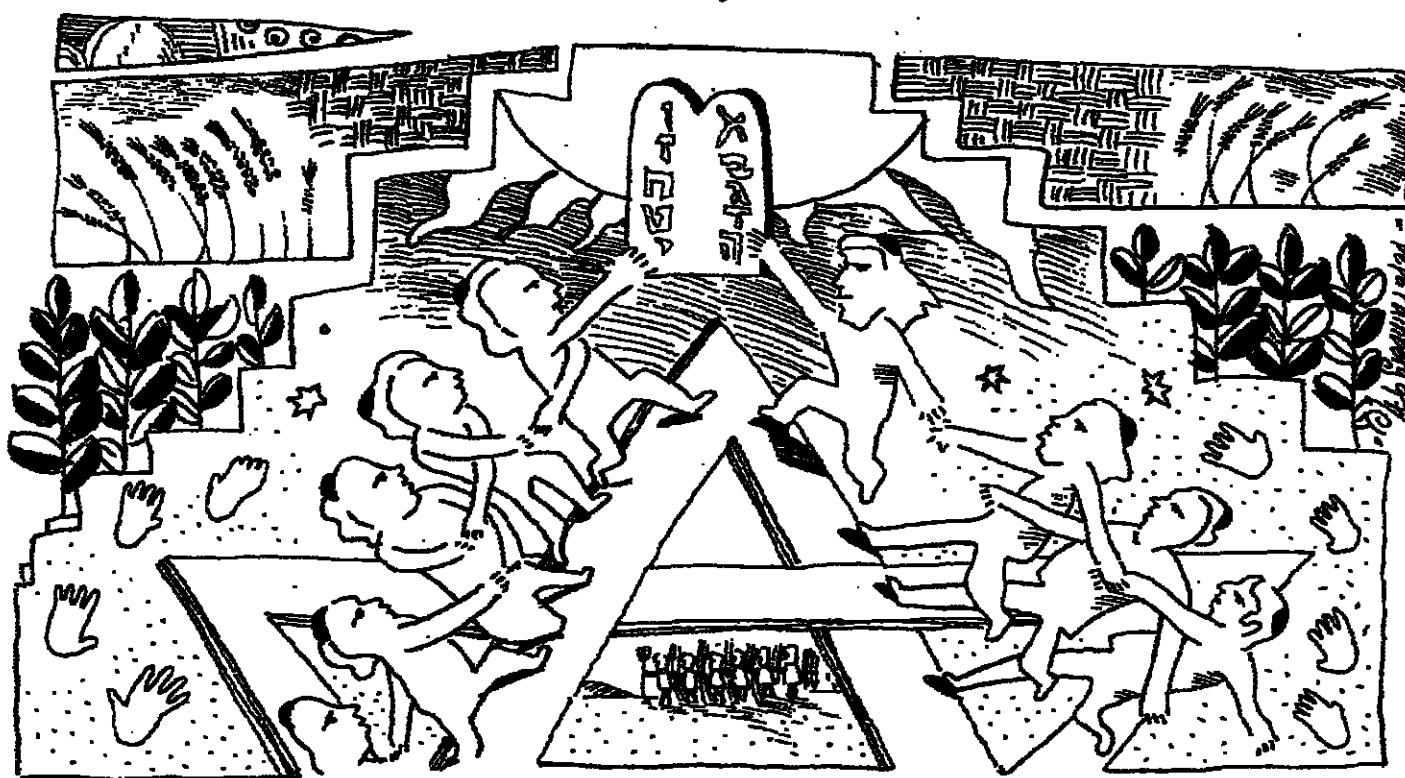
Shavuot: Fate, Destiny and Pluralism

by Rabbi Mordechai Gafni

Every Shavuot, according to the Ba'al Shem Tov, the entire community of Israel renews the covenant – the commitment of the Jewish people to live in accordance with the ethical-spiritual guidelines of the Torah. The particularly troubling question this year – made more urgent by events of recent months is: Is there a covenant that still unites us as a spiritual community? Is there a common language still shared by the entire community of Israel?

Perhaps the most daring attempt at articulating such a common language comes from the Orthodox Talmudist, R. Joseph Soloveitchik. His suggestions is based on a powerful new insight into the idea of covenant. For him covenant implies not only those commitments which Jews make to God – but also to those commitments Jews make to each other. By calling this a covenant, R. Soloveitchik is suggesting that how we relate to each other is not only a political/covenantal issue, but a spiritual/covenantal issue as well.

His simple yet radical formulation of this idea is that there is not one Jewish covenant, but two. The first is the Covenant of Egypt, the exodus, and the second is the Covenant of Sinai. According to Rabbi Soloveitchik, the Covenant of Egypt is a *brit goral*, a covenant of fate, which expresses itself in our ineradicable Jewish identity. It finds expression in the Exodus story and in the holiday of Passover. It is no accident that the novel *Exodus* became a sym-



bol of Jewish identity. Both the story of the founding of the State of Israel in the novel and the original Biblical exodus story are about Jewish peopleness and its responsibilities.

The Covenant of Sinai, on the other hand, is described as *brit ye'ud*, a covenant of destiny. The covenant of destiny finds expression not in the narrative section of the Torah, but in the legal/moral lessons of the Torah, which we celebrate on Shavuot.

The covenant of fate, which was made at the exodus from Egypt, emerges out of the Jewish people's loneliness and isolation on the historical stage. If the Bible refers to Abraham as

ha'ivri, the Hebrew, it is as the *midrash* says: because the whole world stood on one bank (*ma'avar*), and he stood on the other (figuratively speaking).

The covenant of fate is demarcated in several ways. First, it is the recognition of common fate and common history. Rich or poor, learned or ignorant, secular or religious, historical fate has never distinguished between different kinds of Jews. The security of Jews in the Diaspora is intimately bound up with that of Jews in Israel, and a lack of safety in any part of the world undermines the safety of Jews everywhere. In terms of fate, the well-known Talmudic dictum

that Jews are all "cosigners" certainly holds true.

Second, the covenant of fate expresses itself in a sense of shared pain. The people of Israel is analogous to the two-headed son on whom a legal question once arose: should he receive one portion of his father's inheritance or two? The scholars suggested a simple solution: pour boiling water over one head, and if the other head screams you will know without a doubt that he is truly one person. The remarkable phenomenon by which the entire Jewish people feels the pain of each of its parts confirms that we remain one people.

Third, the covenant of fate implies shared responsibility. If one Jew commits a crime, it somehow implicates other Jews in a way that isn't true for the French or Chinese. In a more positive sense, shared responsibility can take the form of political and social action. If Jews are in trouble anywhere in the world, all Jews respond. Witness the Soviet Jewry movement or the Ethiopian airlift. The resurgence of Jewish political autonomy and the assumption of social responsibility which have emerged with the creation of the State of Israel are understood by Rabbi Soloveitchik in terms of the covenant of fate.

It is of overarching significance that Rabbi Soloveitchik applies covenantal categories to the State of Israel. He is saying that the shared political and his-

torical action undertaken by secular and religious Jews is of sufficiently religious character to be termed a covenant – one of the most important spiritual designations in Jewish thought.

But the covenant of fate is far more than a coincidence of political interests. It is a shared historical fate and identity that is embraced by the entire community of Israel. Rav Kuk captures the religious power of the covenant of fate in his epigrammatic observation: "The spirit of God and the spirit of Israel are one." The covenant of fate is thus the beginning of a common language for all Jews. The covenant of fate says that we must understand the depth of our connection to each other even if we do not agree on the content of the second covenant, that of Sinai.

At this point let us move one step beyond R. Soloveitchik. Jews who are committed to the covenant of fate have a right to participate in interpreting the covenant of destiny. We have experienced too much together not to respect the spiritual integrity of carefully developed and honest religious positions that might differ from our own. The position of someone or some group that is a full partner in the covenant of fate must be accorded spiritual integrity; their understanding of the covenant of destiny, the legal/moral teachings of the Torah, must be heard with love, concern and respect. This is the minimal requirement

of pluralism.

And yet, while pluralism implies that we don't need to agree on the content of the covenant of destiny, we need to be ever-vigilant that our pluralism doesn't degenerate into a fig leaf for relativism. Pluralism needs to dramatically affirm that everyone is Jewish but not that everything is Jewish. The fact that a writer might be Jewish does not automatically make everything s/he says – Judaism.

The covenant of fate demands that we live together and respect the spiritual integrity of our respective positions. We do not, however, need to grant legitimacy to positions we think are wrong. It is not sinful to think another person or another movement is wrong; provided, of course, that we don't use our critique of another position to blind ourselves to the weaknesses and fallacies which may be inherent in our own positions. A spiritual position that invests all of its passion into delegitimizing the "other" becomes corrupt, lethargic, and ultimately blind to its own moral failures. Like the vigilant political-correctness, pluralism can become fanaticism that burns non-adherents at the stake.

The principled egalitarian need not be excoriated for refusing to grant legitimacy to the non-egalitarian and the observant Jew need not be asked to legitimize the opinion of someone whose

only dogmatic principle is radical human autonomy.

Pluralism, to be in any way meaningful in the Jewish community, has two paradoxical assumptions: The first is that it has limits; not everything is acceptable. "Messianic Judaism," for example, is excluded from the community by all sectors of the community. It is beyond the limits of pluralism. It repudiates a basic Jewish idea – that the Messiah must bring an end to suffering if he is to be considered Messiah. The second condition is that the covenant must have positive content. The positive content must include three basic elements: God, Torah and Israel. A group which repudiates any one of the three, excludes itself from the company of serious Jews.

Without a notion of one (God) who demands ethics and holiness (Torah) and who demands that the Jew play a unique role in the drama of history (Israel), there is no Judaism. We can disagree on which of the three is most important. We can disagree on how to interpret the Torah, or the nature of God, and even on what the criteria are for joining the people of Israel, but we cannot abandon the core framework.

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In the Spring of 1997, 66 students received their MA degree from the Touro Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem branch. Many of the graduates are already outstanding and noted educators such as Rabbi Yehuda Shaviv and Rabbi Ya'acov Meidan. Both are *Ramim*, noted educators and scholars who wrote award-winning theses. Among the graduates were a group of 22 *Ramim*, who also

educational system throughout the country. (The director-general of the ministry, Ben Zion Del. is a Touro graduate.)

At the Touro Graduate School of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, 250 students are now studying for their Masters degree in Jewish History and Jewish Education, making it the leading graduate school of Jewish Studies in the world. The Graduate School is making a unique contribution to Israeli



teach in teachers' colleges affiliated with the Yeshivot Hesder. They studied in a specially designed program in Jewish Education co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education.

The excellence of Touro's graduates has enabled them to be accepted to doctoral programs in all Israeli universities. Over a dozen of Touro's graduates are now working on doctoral theses at the Hebrew University, Bar Ilan University and at Tel Aviv University. Many graduates occupy senior positions in the

society. Its student body consists mainly of teachers in the Israeli educational system, many of whom are Yeshiva and Michlala graduates. These students then return to the educational system, enriched by their studies, with their horizons broadened.

Dr. Bernard Lander is the the President and founder of Touro College in America. Mr. Maniyahu Adler is Vice President and Professor Carmi Horowitz, professor of Jewish History and Thought, is Dean of the Jerusalem branch.

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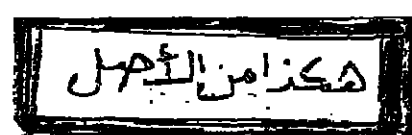
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The Shiru-Li Ensemble plays the Abu Ghosh festival.

ISRAEL FESTIVAL

HELEN KAYE

Last chance to try and get tickets for Alan Lyddiard's production of Orwell's Animal Farm, in Rebecca Crown today at 3 p.m. (English). On the Sherover stage, Dorit Shimron's lively Tuatrom Theater presents the enthralling multimedia (with lasers) Out of the Blue at 2 and 4 p.m. And at Gerard Behar, it's Snowshow with Slava Polunin, great clown, at 3 p.m.

This year's jazz great being remembered at the festival is Thelonious Monk. His son, drummer T.S. Monk, appears with his ensemble and remarkable vocalist Nnenna Freelon, playing his father's music in Monk on Monk. And it's two for the price of one because the Monk marathon also features young pianist Danilo Perez in Panamonk, Monk and Latin jazz. In Henry Crown tomorrow night at 9.

ABU GHOSH FESTIVAL

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

One of the most exciting festivals of our musical scene is here again as the Abu Ghosh choral music festival opens today with an audience-participation singalong to Handel's Messiah - a Western tradition new to Israel. At 5 and 6:30 p.m., there are rehearsals for the evening (8:30) performance in which Stanley Sperber leads an orchestra and the audience "choir" in Handel's best and most beloved oratorio. There are five concerts tomorrow including the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir led by Michael Shani in magnificat by Cimarosa, Vivaldi and Pergolesi (4) and the Ankor choir and the Jerusalem Baroque Ensemble performing music by Bach (8). A festival highlight, Thursday (8), is a concert of three children's choirs, Liron, Cantabile and Moran, in a program ranging from Fauré to Britten and from Haydn to Grönich.

The local Shiru-Li Ensemble plays a concert incorporating folk instruments and drama for the entire family tomorrow at 4:15 p.m.

CAMERANA FESTIVAL

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Camerana chamber-music festival in Ra'anana continues tomorrow with a special concert featuring music by Brahms and Stravinsky, highlighted by the latter's A Soldier's Tale narrated by Emanuel Halperin. On Thursday, the festival reaches its conclusion with the Young Jerusalem String Quartet playing works by Beethoven, Ravel and Dvorak. Yad Labanim in Ra'anana at 8:30.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

**** A SELF-MADE HERO - Jacques Audiard's film begins with the small, funny story of a provincial French boy with a lively

imagination and evolves gradually into a sharply pointed allegory about memory, fantasy and the dubious legacy of the Vichy government. Not that the movie grows somber and preachy as its historical implications open out. Hardy. With real comic aplomb, Mathieu Kassovitz plays a charming pathological liar, a young man who leaves home on the eve of the Liberation and creates for himself a fictional identity as a former hero of the Resistance. The movie manages an unusual blend of caustic humor and serious political commentary. Winner of the best screenplay award at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival. (French dialogue, English and Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

*** THE ASSOCIATE - A cheerfully commercial comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg as a high-powered financial analyst who runs her black, female head through Wall Street's glass ceiling. Donald Petrie's film is much more peculiar than it looks at first glance. The picture has all the trappings of a TV sit-com: crisp punch lines, a perky soundtrack, a cast of cartoonish supporting players and an inevitable, overlong descent into broadly played physical farce (the movie features both female- and male-impersonators). But beneath the familiar clowning, the film also strikes a deep chord of sexual and racial unease. Goldberg's performance is so dry, unflustered and quietly knowing, it knocks a serious hole through the script's jokey surface. This may be funny, but it's for real, she seems to be saying - no kidding. Also with Dianne Wiest. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

***** VERTIGO - No matter how many times you've seen Alfred Hitchcock's twisted 1958 masterpiece, the newly restored and released version comes as a mesmerizing treat. By returning the brightness to the blue of James Stewart's eyes and digitally remastering the original tracks of Bernard Herrmann's great, swirling score, restorers Robert A. Harris and James C. Katz have done more than responsible archival work. They've put the visceral charge back into one of the most obsessive and disturbing love stories ever committed to screen. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

***** BLOOD & WINE One of the most exquisitely mixed-up pictures of the last several years, the latest collaboration between director Bob (Five Easy Pieces) Rafelson and actor Jack Nicholson combines a rich, novelistic sense of character with the plot twists of a junky genre flick. Nicholson stars as a well-heeled scoundrel of a Miami wine dealer who hatches a plan to steal a diamond necklace with the help of an ex-con played by Michael Caine. The burglary, of course, does not go as planned, and things take a turn for the violent and eventually the deadly...this is all a foregone conclusion. What separates B&W, though, from the tens of dozens of other films about failed heists and their aftermath is that The Situation is typical, but the characters aren't types. Also with Stephen Dorff, Judy Davis and Jennifer Lopez, one of the most genuinely beautiful young actresses to cross the screen in a long time. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)

TV

TUESDAY

n CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Return to Treasure Island
8:10 Hans and the Silver Skates - cartoon
10:00 Little Dorrit (1988) - adaptation of Dickens' novel with Derek Jacobi, Alec Guinness, Sarah Pollock and Cyril Cusack. Part 2 to be shown on Thursday.
13:00 Paul Simon
14:00 Salute to Sara Levi-Tanai

CHANNEL 1

15:00 A Full Basket - songs for Shavuot
16:00 A Very Narrow Bridge - program for Shavuot
16:30 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

16:40 Soap Kids - romantic comedy about a child whose divorced parents have both remarried
18:20 As Is Said
18:30 Four Seasons
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 Holiday songs
20:00 News
20:15 Hora of Love (1995) - a typical Israeli family gathers to celebrate Pessah together, and hidden tensions rise to the surface.
20:30 Passover Fever (Hebrew, 1995) - a typical Israeli family gathers to celebrate Pessah together, and hidden tensions rise to the surface.
21:00 Glyceria - selections from the Greek singer's charity performance for Variety
22:10 Passover (Hebrew, 1995) - a typical Israeli family gathers to celebrate Pessah together, and hidden tensions rise to the surface.
22:30 CNI
23:00 News
23:55 Dream On

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Akadim
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Ad
9:00 The World's Most Dangerous Animals
10:00 Golan Quiz
11:00 Flying Blind - the changes of the '90s seen through the eyes of a teenager
13:00 My Chiefest Joy - concert in honor of Jerusalem
14:00 Edward Scissorhands (1990) - a kind-hearted suburban housewife adopts a boy who has scissors instead of hands. Starring Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder, and Dianne Wiest.
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News
17:05 The Ron Lucas Show
17:30 Everything's Open
18:00 Zehu Zeh
18:30 Sea of Macarena - Latin American songs
19:10 I'll Go Crazy - Ehud Manor's translations of songs
20:00 News
20:15 Suissa and Yatpan First - adaptation of the box-office hit
21:00 Gov Night
23:15 West Side Story (1961) -

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (rpt)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sivas (rpt)
8:00 Dallas (rpt)
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)
11:15 Zingara (rpt)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:35 Wings
14:00 Dallas (rpt)
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 The Nanny
16:00 Hercules (rpt)
16:45 Zingara
17:30 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:00 Local Broadcast
18:30 One Life to Live
19:15 The Young

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 La Grande Illusion (French, 1937) - masterpiece by Jean

Landmark musical based on Romeo and Juliet. Winner of 10 Oscars. Starring Natalie Wood, George Chakiris and Rita Moreno.
2:05 The American Cinema - documentary series
3:05 On the Edge of the Shelf

JORDAN TV (unconfirmed)

15:00 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:00 Super Sports Ball
16:30 Dog House
17:00 Square One
17:10 Album Show
18:10 French programs
19:00 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Coach
20:00 Tilt
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:30 West Beach
23:15 Drug Wars

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop
14:30 700 Club
15:00 Gerbert
15:30 Dennis the Menace
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Family Challenge
17:45 Beakman's World
18:10 Perfect Strangers
18:35 Saved by the Bell
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Showcase
20:50 Blue Thunder (1983) - action thriller based on the deeds of the LA police helicopter surveillance team. With Roy Scheider and Malcolm McDowell. Directed by John Badham.
23:00 CNI
23:30 The 700 Club
00:00 Quantum Shopping

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Discussion in Arabic
17:00 Man and Nature
18:00 Her Majesty's Teens
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Video Clips
20:00 News
20:35 Baldy - silent film
20:45 Rumpole of the Bailey
21:40 Showcase
22:15 Cinema 3
23:15 Churchill - part 3

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Cartoons
9:00 Mighty Max
9:30 Little Flying Saucer
9:35 Surprise Garden
9:50 Make Believe Closet
10:15 Mighty Max
10:45 Pink Panther Show
11:20 Moesha
11:50 Party of Five
12:35 Shavuot specials
13:10 King Babar
14:30 Mighty Max
15:00 Enchanted Tales - Hercules
15:05 Surprise Garden
15:20 Make Believe Closet
17:00 Fun on Six
17:35 Cream with Michael Yanai
18:25 Shavuot special
20:00 The Bottle
20:15 Married with Children
20:40 Roseanne
21:05 Cosby Show
21:35 Different World

EUROSPORT

9:30 Speedworld Magazine
11:00 Soccer: Tournament of France
13:00 Soccer: World Cup qualifying rounds
15:00 Supersport World Series
16:00 Tennis: ATP Grass Court Tour, England
19:00 Tennis: ATP Tour, Germany
20:30 Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix, Slovakia
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1:00 Equestrian: Nations Cup
2:00 Sailing Magazine

STAR SPORTS

8:00 Soccer: Tournament of France
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STAR PLUS

6:30 Nine to Five
7:00 Yan Can Cook
7:30 GI Joe
8:00 Eek! the Cat
8:30 Oprah Winfrey
9:30 The X-Files
10:30 Santa Barbara
11:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
12:00 Hindi shows
13:30 Lost in Space
14:30 Black Beauty
15:00 Charles in Charge
16:00 Yan Can Cook
16:00 Hindi programs
18:30 Star News
19:00 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em
19:30 Space: Above and Beyond
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:00 Santa Barbara
22:00 Star News
22:30 Baywatch
00:30 Vegas
1:30 Oprah Winfrey
2:30 Barnaby Jones

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs for Prime Time TV.

Renoir set in a group

War I about a group of French soldiers in a German POW camp. Starring Erich von Stroheim, Pierre Fresnay and Jean Gabin
23:50 Gods of the Plague (German, 1970) - Film noir-style gangster story by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Hanna Schygulla

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University
8:00 World on a Plate
8:30 Travelogue (rpt)
9:00 Big City Metro
9:30 La Cenerentola - Rossini's opera
12:05 Un petit peu d'exercice opera
14:25 Beyond 2000
12:55 A Healthy Body (rpt)
13:25 Future Quest: Energize Me (rpt)
13:50 Nature on Track: Madagascar
14:25 Beyond 2000
15:10 Galapagos: Beyond Darwin
16:15 Human Nature, part 7 (rpt)
17:00 Open University - Jurg Immendorf; Interactions in Science, Principles of Accounting
19:05 Beyond 2000
19:30 A Healthy Body - health magazine
20:00 Future Quest, part 11 Planet Patrol
20:30 Nature on Track, Part 11: Burnt offerings
21:00 Eight On Eight with Yael Dan
21:45 Galapagos: Beyond Darwin, part 3
22:45 Human Nature, part 4
23:30 Open University - Oll; We the People Elect

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Viva Bolivia
17:30 NBA Finals, game 3 highlights
19:00 To be announced
21:00 South American Soccer Magazine
22:00 Viva Bolivia - Copa America Preview
23:00 Snooker

EUROSPORT

9:30 Speedworld Magazine
11:00 Soccer: Tournament of France
13:00 Soccer: World Cup qualifying rounds
15:00 Supersport World Series
16:00 Tennis: ATP Grass Court Tour, England
19:00 Tennis: ATP Tour, Germany
20:30 Athletics: IAAF Grand Prix, Slovakia
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23:30 Open University - Oll; We the People Elect

with Conan O'Brien

1:00 Later
1:30 NBC Nightly News
2:00 Tonight Show
3:00 Intermittent

STAR PLUS

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BBC WORLD

News on the hour
7:30 Window on Europe
8:00 Newsdesk
8:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
10:30 Window on Europe (rpt)
11:30 Top Gear (rpt)
12:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
13:30 Tomorrow's World (rpt)
14:00 Newsdesk
15:30 Window on Europe (rpt)
16:15 World Business Report
16:30 Asia-Pacific Newshour
17:30 Holiday (rpt)
18:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
19:30 Film '97 (rpt)
20:00 World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:30 Britain in View
23:30 Building Nights
00:00 Newsdesk
1:00 Asia Today
2:10 Newsnight

CNN INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day
6:30 World Report
7:30 Insight
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:30 World Sport
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:30 CNN Newshour
12:30 World Report
13:30 American Edition
13:45 C&A (rpt)
14:30 Asian News
14:30 World Sport
15:15 Asian News Live
15:30 Business Asia
16:00 Larry King Live
17:30 World Sport
18:30 Computer Connection
19:30 Q & A with Riz Khan
20:45 American Edition
21:00 World Business Today
22:00 Larry King Live
23:00 European News
23:30 Insight

EUROSPORT

9:30 Speedworld Magazine
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STAR SPORTS

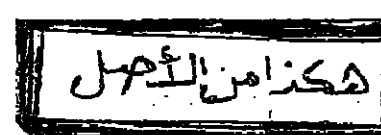
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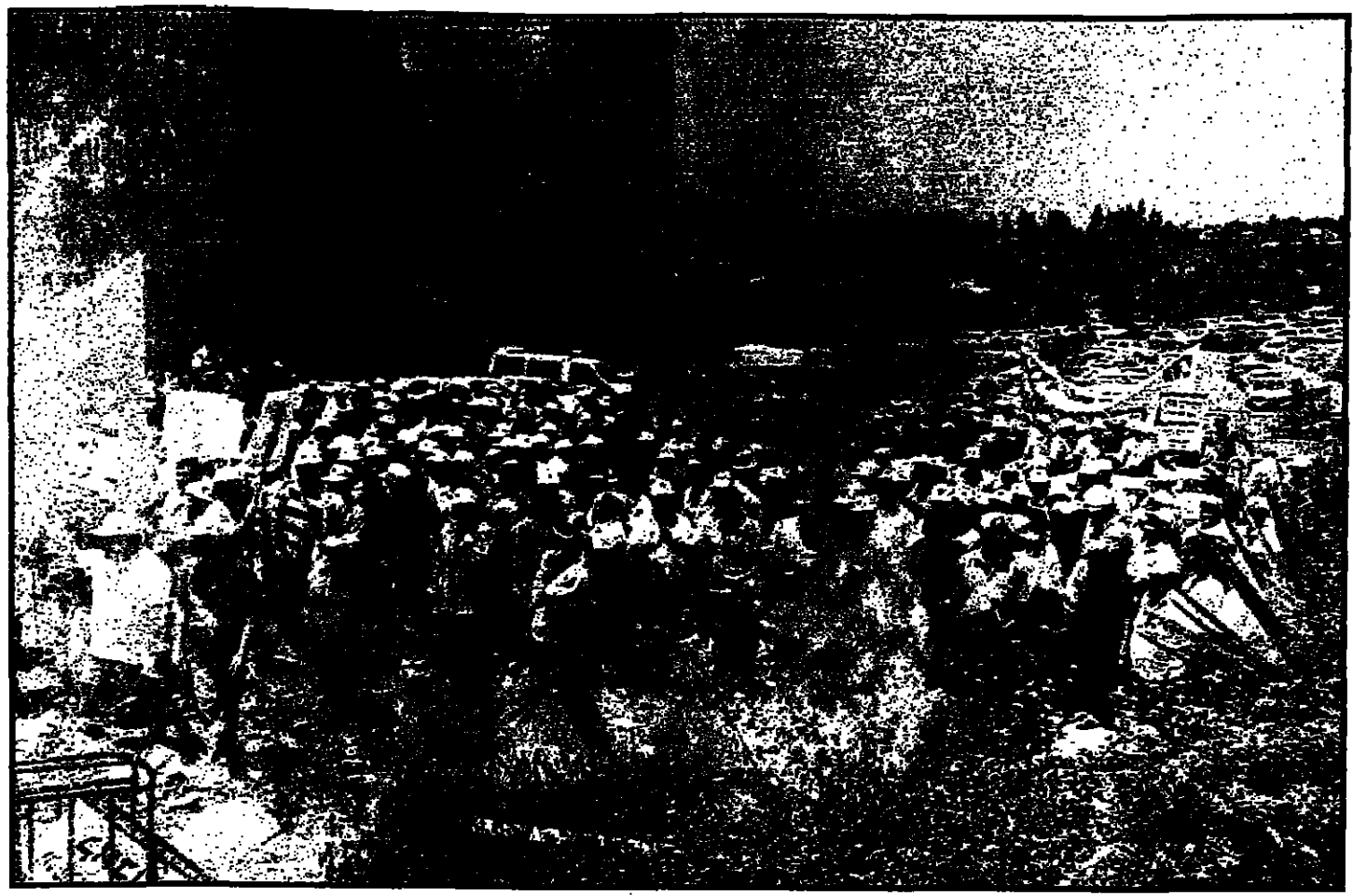
SHAVUOT SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Advertisement for Yeshivath Beth Abraham Slonim Institutions in Israel, listing various schools and their contact information.

Advertisement for Keren Kayemet-Perpetuation Fund For Generations, detailing the fund's purpose and contact information.

Advertisement for Camp Ariel, featuring activities like 'EMA / ABBA I'M BORED!!' and 'PLEASE SEND ME TO CAMP ARIEL!'.





Flower growers protest

Flower growers burn a tire and try to block the road by the Treasury in Jerusalem yesterday to protest the lack of government support for their industry, which lost NIS 70 million last year.

Billions in defense deals by year 2000

By STEVE RODAN

Israeli defense firms are negotiating \$10.5 billion worth of contracts with foreign clients and expect more than half to be signed by the year 2000, according to the Defense Ministry.

More than 60 percent of the contracts are being negotiated with clients in the Far East and Australia.

"In Asia, there are countries concerned about their security," Defense Ministry director-general Ilan Biran said at a news conference yesterday in advance of next week's Paris Air Show.

"These countries have a range of relations with us that are relatively new."

Biran portrayed a robust image of Israel's defense industries. He said in 1996 Israel signed contracts that totalled \$2b. So far this year, Israel has signed more than \$1b. in contracts.

The result, Biran said, is that by the year 2000 revenues from Israeli defense exports will exceed \$2b.

But Defense Ministry data forecast what could be an even rosier future. According to ministry statistics disclosed at the news conference, Israel is negotiating contracts around the world that total \$10.5b. The most lucrative potential lies in the Far East and Australia, where Israel is negotiating more than \$6.2b. in deals.

"We are not talking about just entering a bid," a defense source

said. "We are talking about the second stage where the negotiations begin in earnest."

The second most active area currently is Western Europe, where Israeli firms are negotiating nearly \$1.4b. in contracts.

The potential, the ministry says, however, lies more in Eastern Europe, where officials expect to win \$1.47b. in contracts by the year 2000.

North America, the ministry says, is expected to garner close to \$700 million in defense contracts within the next two to three years.

Biran said he hopes the Israeli defense firms will cooperate abroad and embark on joint marketing and manufacturing ventures. This, he said, would eliminate inefficiency and needless competition.

But the director-general rejected a proposal presented by Brig-Gen. (res.) Aviem Sela, a former Air Force officer and now a defense consultant, for a sole marketing body that would coordinate and negotiate all export deals. The proposal was raised as part of efforts by defense contractors to improve efficiency in the wake of the mega-mergers by their counterparts in the US and Western Europe.

"The defense industries must show maturity and cooperation," Biran said.

"I expect them to cooperate fully on upgrades without connection to consolidation or structural changes."

WEATHER

Haifa	17-27	Tiberias	18-32
Ashdod	17-25	Samar	17-28
Tel Aviv	18-28	Jerusalem	15-25
Beer Sheva	17-30	Dead Sea	24-35
Eilat	22-37		

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Forecast
Amsterdam	13	25	partly cloudy
Berlin	14	25	cloudy
Buenos Aires	22	28	partly cloudy
Cairo	22	32	clear
Chicago	22	32	clear
Copenhagen	12	22	rain
Frankfurt	14	22	rain
Geneva	16	28	partly cloudy
Helsinki	11	22	clear
Hong Kong	24	31	cloudy
Jakarta	24	31	partly cloudy
London	13	23	clear
Los Angeles	18	28	partly cloudy
Moscow	16	31	cloudy

Winning Cards

The winning cards in the Mifal Hapayis Chance draw (157/97) were the 10 of spades, seven of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and ace of clubs. In the second draw (158/97) the winning cards were the seven of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

Foreign Ministry confirms Gold, Davis appointments

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Three major diplomatic appointments - two political and one professional - were confirmed by the Foreign Ministry yesterday, ending the prolonged absence of an Israeli envoy to the UN, assigning a new ambassador to Russia, and filling the No. 2 slot at the Washington embassy.

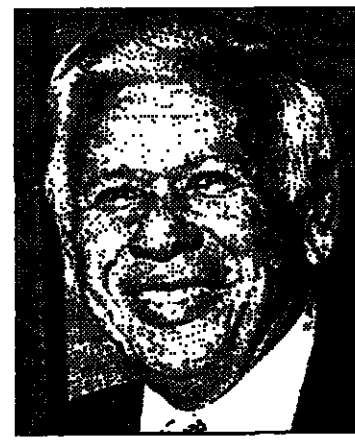
Dore Gold, foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, is now officially the new ambassador to the UN after being appointed last month.

Gold, 43, from West Hartford, Connecticut, immigrated in 1980, after completing a PhD in Middle East studies at Columbia University. He worked at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and served as an adviser to the Israeli delegation to the Madrid conference in 1991.

The ambassador-designate to Russia, Herzl Inbar, is the ministry's deputy director-general for Latin American affairs. Previously ambassador to Venezuela, his



Dore Gold (David Rabinger)



Leonard Davis (David Harris)



Colette Avital (David Karp)

postings have included counsellor to the UN delegation.

Leonard Davis, former director of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee's Israel office, was confirmed as political minister at the embassy in Washington.

Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar's right-hand man. A graduate of Yeshiva University, Davis has an

MA in political science from American University in Washington.

Among other ministry appointments: Colette Avital, from consul-general in New York to deputy director-general for Western Europe; Victor Harel, from ambassador to Belgium to deputy director-general for economic affairs; Ehud Toledano as ambas-

sador to Turkey; Yitzhak Meir as ambassador to Switzerland;

Foreign Ministry veteran Natan Maron as ambassador to Austria; Dan Ashbel from Western Europe division to consul-general in Philadelphia, replacing Gideon Samet; Yitzhak Levanon as consul-general in Boston, replacing Danny Khiram.

Rabin memorial day bill supported

By LIAT COLLINS

The bill calling for a national memorial day to commemorate Yitzhak Rabin passed first reading in the Knesset yesterday. It was supported by 31 MKs; Michael Kleiner (Gesher) abstained.

Despite the relatively large turnout for the vote - nearly all of them opposition members - only a handful of MKs listened to the two-hour debate.

The bill was submitted by the Meretz faction and is expected to undergo several changes before being presented for second and final readings. It was referred to the Education Committee.

Under the bill, the Hebrew date of Rabin's assassination, 12 Heshvan, would be marked annually in several ways, including the lowering of flags on public buildings to half mast; special activities in schools; and a special note of the day on IDF bases. A memorial service would be held next to his grave on Mount Herzl.

The education minister would be responsible for the implementation of the law and drawing up the relevant regulations.

Meretz faction chairman Haim Oron, who presented the bill, stressed in his speech that the death of Rabin was different from that of other leaders; "because it was the murder of a prime minister who died in the line of duty."

"The assassination was an attempt to kill the entire democratic regime, and therefore, beyond commemorating the man and the leader, we should determine - and this is agreed upon by all parts of the House - that a memorial day for Rabin will be held to protect the spirit of democracy and defend it against those who rise up against it," Oron said.

He complained that no government minister was present for the discussion on the bill, although Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani turned up for the vote and supported the bill.

Weisenthal Center: Revoke Arafat's Nobel prize

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER and news agencies

The Simon Wiesenthal Center is launching an international campaign calling on the Nobel Prize Committee to cancel the peace prize given in 1994 to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat because of his tacit endorsement of the killing of Arab land dealers who sell to Jews. The dean of the center admits, however, that there is no precedent for revoking the prize.

"We understand there is no legal mechanism, and the rules and the charter don't provide them with a mechanism to officially pull it back," Rabbi Marvin Hier said.

"But still the question is, does the committee have an obligation to remain silent, or could the committee simply say, 'We've been watching the press reports, and we think that if this is true, it's certainly behavior unbecoming of a Nobel laureate.' Whether they take the prize back or not, just having

them say that is sufficiently an embarrassment for him, should they have the guts to do it."

Hier said the purpose of his letter to Francis Sejersted, chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, was to prod some of the committee members to reach the conclusion that they should say something publicly, and "to embarrass Mr. Arafat beyond the Jewish community."

For Arafat to have a policy, "that supports a death sentence to any one who sells land to a Jew,

whether he's from Brooklyn, or from France, or from England, whether his name is Bernstein or Goldstein, is just something that a Nobel laureate should have nothing to do with, and the fact that Arafat endorses it makes him a very questionable recipient," Hier said.

However, in an interview in the current issue of Newsweek magazine, which went on sale yesterday, Arafat said he is "absolutely against" vigilante executions of Palestinians who sell land to

Israelis, and added that those responsible would be arrested if they were found.

"We are absolutely against anyone taking the law into his own hands," Arafat was quoted as saying. In the Newsweek interview, conducted on Friday, Arafat said, "The death penalty hasn't been carried out and never will be."

He said the three Arabs were killed "by unknown persons" and denied that the head of one of his security services was involved in the murders.

AT THE KNESSET

Yisrael Ba'aliya: We'll vote as we like

By LIAT COLLINS

Yisrael Ba'aliya has informed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that its MKs do not feel bound by coalition discipline on votes because of what faction chairman Roman Bronfman called "gross violations of coalition agreements made with the faction." Its MKs will now vote according to their own views rather than in line with coalition stands.

Apparently, the last straw for the party was the government's refusal to appoint its preferred candidate, Zvi Magen, as ambas-

sador to Moscow. Magen is currently ambassador to Ukraine.

Bronfman also mentioned what he called the Finance Ministry's foot-dragging in implementing a program to help absorb new immigrant scientists.

He said the government had rejected nearly all the bills proposed by Yisrael Ba'aliya "and the situation has become unbearable." The faction is expected to meet with the prime minister to air its complaints.

No return to former electoral system
Two bills calling for the abolition

of the direct election of the prime minister and a return to the previous electoral system were rejected yesterday. The bills were filed by Naomi Chazan (Meretz) and Rehavam Ze'evi (Moleket). They were both raised for a preliminary reading. Chazan's bill was defeated 22-37 with one abstention and Ze'evi's 18-30 with two abstentions.

The debate crossed party lines, with not only Meretz and Moleket on the same side, but with three Likud MKs - Uzi Landau, Michael Kleiner, and David Re'em - voting in favor of the bills.

End to land dealer killings demanded

The debate on the murder of Palestinians suspected of selling land to Jews ended with the adoption of a resolution proposed jointly by the Likud, National Religious Party, Yisrael Ba'aliya, United Torah Judaism, and the Third Way. The resolution calls for "effective, operative steps to bring about the cancellation [of the Palestinian Authority death sentence for land dealers] and to stop the murders being directed by the PA."

It calls on the government to insist that the PA cancel the death sentence for land dealers as part of the negotiations and for legal steps to be taken, including rescinding the VIP status of PA officials involved.

The resolution also calls for protection of all Israeli Arabs under threat.

Bills would lower mandatory education age

Two bills, which passed preliminary reading despite the objections of the government for budgetary reasons, call for mandatory free education to begin at either three or four. Tamir Gozansky (Hadash) submitted the bill calling for it to start at three; Anat Maor (Meretz) suggested a year later.

Gozansky said that while some children of that age can use computers, others have not yet seen a book or been read a story. She said the bill is raised every year, but its implementation is postponed because of the cost.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said the ministry favors the bills, but does not have the needed funds and is carrying out "painful budget cuts and cannot take on any more costs."

Maor's bill was supported by 21 MKs, and opposed by five; Gozansky's by 20 with eight against.

Bill would speed up libel trials

A joint bill by Zvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya) and Yona Yahav (Labor), which passed preliminary reading, calls for strict punishments and speedy sentencing in libel and slander cases. It passed 31-1, despite the objections of the government.

The bill calls for a minimum NIS 15,000 fine for libel and states that

verdicts would be given no later than 90 days from the date the complaint was filed. Yahav said that now such cases might only reach court after five or more years.

Under the law, a group, such as an immigration organization, could file a libel suit and not just the affected individual.

Weinberg mentioned specifically newspaper headlines which note that someone suspected of guilty of a crime is a new immigrant. He said such reports stigmatize immigrants.

Weinberg recently submitted a different bill which calls for heavy punishments for those who publish libelous material.

Bill would allow men week off for wife's pregnancy

Under a bill which passed preliminary reading, a man would be allowed to be absent from work for up to seven days a year on the grounds of his partner's pregnancy or childbirth. The bill was submitted by David Re'em (Likud). The days would come out of the man's sick leave.

Levy: El Al will not fly on Shabbat

At a meeting of MKs from religious parties, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (NRP) said he would not agree to sign the privatization of El Al unless he receives a promise it will not operate on Shabbat.

Hazorfin

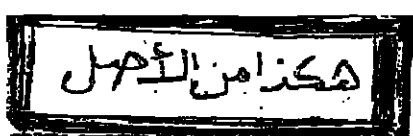
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